

# Florida

Piscatorial Pampering  
Go Fishing Anyway

Fishing • Hunting  
• Conservation •  
Outdoor Recreation

# WILDLIFE

MAY 1966

*The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen*

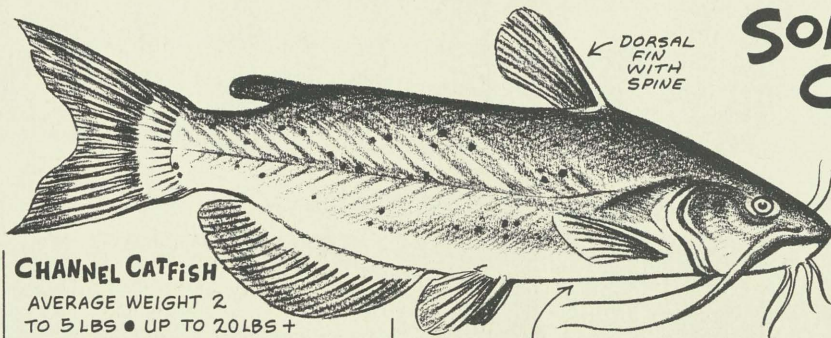
25 CENTS





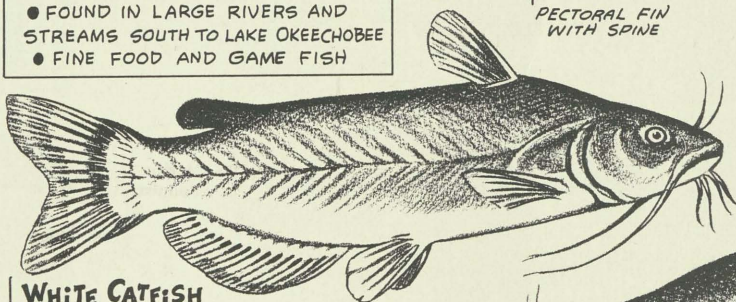
# Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

## SOME FLORIDA CATFISHES



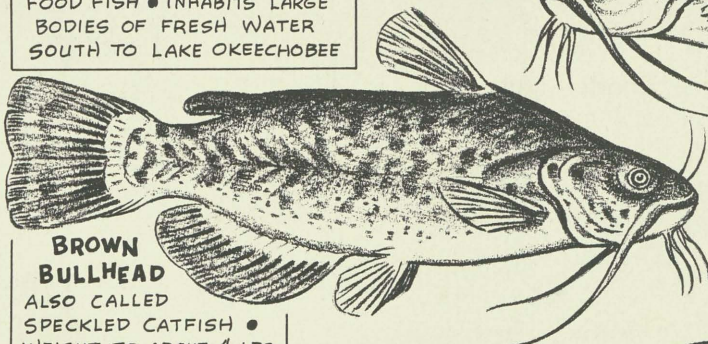
### CHANNEL CATFISH

AVERAGE WEIGHT 2 TO 5 LBS • UP TO 20 LBS +  
• FOUND IN LARGE RIVERS AND STREAMS SOUTH TO LAKE OKEECHOBEE  
• FINE FOOD AND GAME FISH



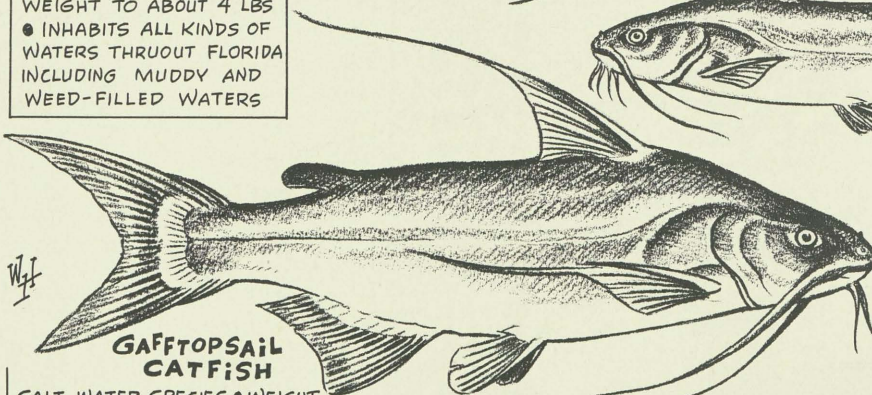
### WHITE CATFISH

AVERAGE WEIGHT ABOUT 2 LBS  
• UP TO 5 OR 6 LBS • FINE FOOD FISH • INHABITS LARGE BODIES OF FRESH WATER SOUTH TO LAKE OKEECHOBEE



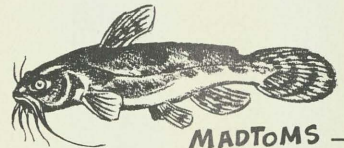
### BROWN BULLHEAD

ALSO CALLED SPECKLED CATFISH • WEIGHT TO ABOUT 4 LBS • INHABITS ALL KINDS OF WATERS THRUOUT FLORIDA INCLUDING MUDDY AND WEED-FILLED WATERS



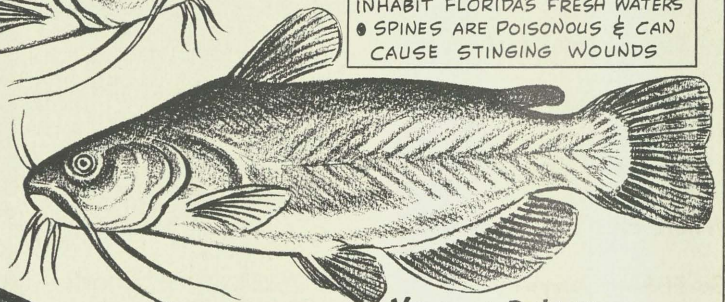
### GAFTOPSAIL CATFISH

SALT WATER SPECIES • WEIGHT 1 TO 6 LBS • VERY GOOD TO EAT



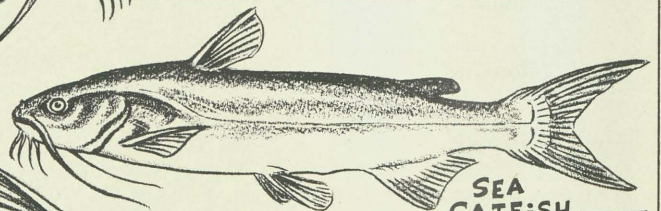
### MADTOMS

— ARE TINY CATFISH SELDOM OVER 3" LONG • 3 SPECIES INHABIT FLORIDA'S FRESH WATERS • SPINES ARE POISONOUS & CAN CAUSE STINGING WOUNDS



### YELLOW BULLHEAD

ALSO CALLED BUTTER CATFISH • WEIGHT TO AROUND 4 OR 5 LBS • FOUND IN LAKES, PONDS AND STREAMS THRUOUT THE STATE • BULLHEADS ARE GOOD FOOD WHEN TAKEN FROM CLEAN WATERS



### SEA CATFISH

SALT WATER SPECIES • WEIGHT 1/2 TO 3 LBS • EDIBLE - BUT SELDOM EATEN BECAUSE OF STRONG IODINE FLAVOR • SPINES OF THE SALT WATER CATFISHES ARE POISONOUS & CAN CAUSE MUCH PAIN & SWELLING • BOTH SPECIES ARE FOUND ALONG BEACHES AND IN BAYS, CHANNELS, INLETS AND BRACKISH & FRESH WATERS OF STREAMS FLOWING INTO THE SEA

— FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION



# Florida WILDLIFE

VOL. 19 NO. 12

MAY 1966

official publication of the  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission  
State of Florida

★

**BILL HANSEN, EDITOR**

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

## In This Issue

At The Local Level .....	Ernest Swift	5
Bobwhite Quail .....	Wallace Hughes	13
Piscatorial Pampering .....	Art Hutt	14
Where Has The Wild Goose Gone? .....	Harold W. Ashley	18
Go Fishing Anyway .....	Charles Waterman	22

## Departments

Conservation Scene .....	4
Fishing .....	6
Boating .....	10
Muzzle Flashes .....	28

## The Cover

*The Bobwhite Quail, with a nesting season that extends from early May through September, is one of Florida's more popular game birds, found throughout the state. See page 13.*

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

FLORIDA WILDLIFE is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy price, 25¢. Subscription rates: 1-year, \$2.50; 2-year, \$4.75; 3-year, \$6.25. Change of address should be reported promptly. The Commission assumes no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts and illustrative materials. Permission is granted to reprint text materials, EXCEPT for advertising and commercial purposes, provided full credit is given FLORIDA WILDLIFE, and contributors. Clearance must be made with photographers and artists to reproduce illustrations. Entered as Second Class Matter Nov. 8, 1947, at the U.S. Post Office, Tallahassee, Fla., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Copyright 1966 by  
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

ROSE



TALLAHASSEE

## COMMISSION

W. B. COPELAND, Chairman  
Jacksonville  
Northeast Region

RONALD WISE, DeFuniak Springs  
Northwest Region

HAROLD W. ASHLEY, Melrose  
Central Region

JACK CLIETT, Wauchula  
Southern Region

W. THOMAS McBROOM, Miami  
Everglades Region

★

## ADMINISTRATION

DR. O. E. FRYE, JR., Director

H. E. WALLACE  
Assistant Director

JOEL McKINNON  
Administrative Assistant

JOHN W. WOODS, Chief  
Fisheries Division

JAMES A. POWELL, Chief  
Game Management Division

BRANTLEY GOODSON, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

JAMES T. FLOYD, Chief  
Information-Education Division

★

RHETT McMILLIAN, Chief  
Communications Division  
Federal Communications Bldg.  
New Smyrna Beach, Florida

★

## REGIONAL OFFICES

Northwest Region  
JOHN T. BROWN, Manager  
226 Airport Drive  
Panama City, Florida

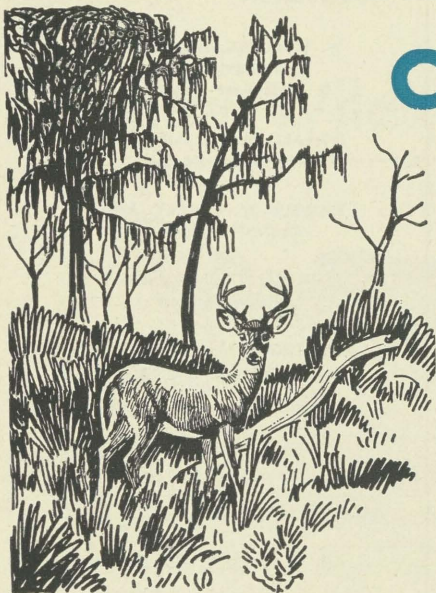
Northeast Region  
ROBERT BRANTLY, Manager  
P.O. Box 908  
Lake City, Florida

Central Region  
J. W. BICKERSTAFF, Manager  
2520 E. Silver Springs Blvd.  
Ocala, Florida

Southern Region  
J. O. BROWN, Manager  
2202 Lakeland Hills Blvd.  
Lakeland, Florida

Everglades Region  
LOUIS F. GAINEY, Manager  
551 North Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, Florida





# CONSERVATION SCENE

## Gun Handling Instruction Scheduled For Camp Perry

**E**IGHTY EIGHT sport fishermen made money during February in the sixth annual 1966 Schlitz Florida Fishing Derby by returning Schlitz tagged fish to the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the State Board of Conservation for scientific research.

A tabulation of February Derby results showed that 55 catches were fresh water varieties, and 33 were salt water types.

The Derby is running statewide all this year, open free to the public, to provide fish tagged and released each year since 1961 by the state agencies for fish life studies to improve Florida fishing opportunities.

To date, more than 8,000 Derby fish have been captured in the world's most extensive fish tagging project, with more than \$300,000 paid to fishermen for their cooperation. The event is financed by the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co.

Fishermen's awards this year range from \$25 to \$300, graduated according to the time Schlitz tagged fish have been at large. This coincides with scientific values of longer fish life terms for study of growth, movement, effect of fishing pressure, and other biological data.

Derby fish released in 1961

bring \$300 each; 1962 fish, \$200; 1963, \$100; 1964, \$50; and 1965, \$25.

Participation requires only that Derby fish be caught with hook and line, and in compliance with state fishing regulations. Awards are claimed by delivery of Derby fish with tags intact as soon as possible after capture to the nearest Schlitz wholesaler who will return them to the state agency concerned. Locations of Schlitz wholesalers may be found in telephone book yellow pages.

### New Fishery Program

SECRETARY OF THE Interior Stewart L. Udall recently announced plans to start a new Federal program to conserve and develop the Nation's anadromous fishery resources. Anadromous fish, such as striped bass, salmon and shad, live in the ocean and return to fresh water during the spawning season.

The program could provide funds for research, stream improvement, and construction of fishways, spawning channels, and hatcheries.

The Anadromous Fish Act of 1965, authorized by Public Law 89-304, will be administered jointly by Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Although funds have not yet been approved by Congress, the Act authorizes the appropriation of \$25 million through June 30, 1970. The maximum Federal funds authorized for one year are \$5 million, and no State may receive more than \$1 million in one

year. Federal funds would finance up to 50 percent of approved anadromous fish projects.

### Every Parent Should Know

It's AS NATURAL as growing up for a boy or girl to be interested in sporting firearms and shooting. The lucky youngster has parents who enjoy recreational shooting. But whether the parents shoot or not, one day the kid asks, "When can I own a gun—a real gun?"

This is a question nearly every parent must answer. What should the parent do about getting a pellet gun, .22 rifle or small shotgun? To help parents make a decision, the National Shooting Sports Foundation has prepared an eight-page booklet—"What Every Parent Should Know . . . When a Boy or Girl Wants a Gun."

Single copies are available free by writing: National Shooting Sports Foundation, Riverside, Conn.

### Duck Stamp Booklet

THE DEPARTMENT of the Interior has announced availability of a new edition of "Duck Stamp Data," describing the 32 Federal hunting stamps issued to date.

The 40-page booklet, which pictures all the stamps, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20240, for 25 cents. It is known as Fish and Wildlife Circular 111 and is the fourth edition to be printed.

Of interest to philatelists, sportsmen, and other conserva-

(Continued on page 32)



## Increased Panfish Bag Limits Set

FLORIDA'S FRESH WATER fishermen can look forward to an increased bag limit on panfish starting July 1, 1966. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission increased the bag limit from 35 to 50 at a meeting of the Commission at Homosassa on March 25. The new fishing regulation will provide for a daily bag of 50 panfish, 10 bass and 15 chain pickerel except in Dade, Broward, Collier and Monroe counties where the daily limit for panfish is 70.

W. B. Copeland, Chairman of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission said, "There is no reason why we should not allow the fisherman an increased bag limit on panfish. The biological findings of the Commission's fishery division prove that the fisherman is catching only a small percentage of the panfish population and that an increased bag limit will in no way damage the fishery resource."

Another change in the fishing regulations by the Commission was to remove the 12 inch size limit on bass in Putnam County. The size limit was imposed several years ago as a part of a study program on bass stocking in Putnam County.

At the Homosassa meeting the Commission also established the general regulations for the 1966-67 hunting season for resident game birds and animals. The season for deer, turkey, quail, squirrel and bear will open November 12 in the First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Conservation Districts, and one week later on November 19 in the Third District.

The Commission's game management division presented a progress report on Florida's wildlife relocation program. The report indicated a total of 365 wild turkeys trapped and relocated on public hunting lands. A total of 31 native deer were trapped and relocated. In addition to the native deer, 49 white-tailed deer and 43 sika deer were obtained from out of the state. ●

## Conservation Outlook

# At The Local Level

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

IT HAS OFTEN BEEN SAID, "Repeat a statement enough times and people will believe it." There are certain instances where this has proven true, but indulging in old adages it has also been stated, "You can't fool all the people all of the time." Many people with perception are beginning to wonder where resource husbandry fits between these two rather opposing observations.

My own experiences have ranged from years as a field man in conservation to administration at the state and federal level, and then back to the community atmosphere of a small town where collectively logging, small farms, the summer resort business and a few small industries sustain the economic base.

I have tried to take advantage of my experience all along the way, and I now look upon this return, after thirty years, as a complete cycle in my conservation education. I recommend this refresher course to conservation leadership in general.

The rural areas are not quite the same as when I left them, they are far more sophisticated, but still with remnants of individualism of a passing era. I find the people still much preoccupied with local problems, but there are also issues of an insidious nature which they tend to ignore. The problems are not too big to overcome, but it is easier to brush them aside. Some attitudes on conservation are little different than when I left the field, but underneath there is more of an awareness of potential difficulties.

Now federal and state planners have moved in on the country folk in every respect of living as never before. Too many of these planners have only a metropolitan background and assume that country folk are not capable of running their own business. They must be brainwashed and regimented into the larger scheme of national existence.

As of now the planners seem to have the whip hand because people are busy with their own affairs, but their individualism is being chiseled away in small fragments. If they allow this they are in great part responsible for not facing up to the things which need to be done.

While the planners, with the power of law and lots of money, advance their land-use schemes for forestry, recreation and farming for the benefit of a bucolic public, the local Rod and Gun Clubs continue their monthly meetings.

Summer resort areas have many problems vital to that business, and the general attitude is that what is good for the resort business is good for conservation. Seasonally they argue the merits of a nine or twelve day deer season, and someone invariably attacks the unholy alliance that would shoot does. The grouse season is debated in the light of the tourist dollar; and because the bird population was down the previous year a bounty should be placed on coyotes and fox. Fishing regulations are a priority

(Continued on page 34)



# FISHING



By CHARLES WATERMAN

Some of the more highly prized salt water game fish manage to get a long way from the sea in Florida

A SATISFACTORY METHOD of repairing broken glass rods (hollow) was demonstrated the other day by Buddy Nordmann, DeLand tackle dealer and fishing instructor.

He says the plan may not work on very small tips out close to the end of the rod but he's had good service from a number of his splices in the larger part of the blank, some of them in use for a matter of years without trouble.

For a test he refastened a 6-inch section that was broken from the tip of a light fly rod and I'm trying it out. The splice is barely noticeable.

He trims a short piece of glass, about 1½ inches long, to fit inside the two broken sections and prefers to leave the broken edges uneven as they're easier to bond that way. He smears epoxy cement on the snugly fitted glass plug and fits the broken pieces together over it. The gimmick, he explains, is that the epoxy glue will set without exposure to air.

He then encloses the joint with Scotch tape and lets it dry for 24 hours, after which he files and sandpapers it smooth. Next, it's wrapped with thread and given two coats of epoxy.

There's a question whether this much trouble is worthwhile with a cheap rod but an expensive stick, broken down near the butt, certainly needn't be a washout.

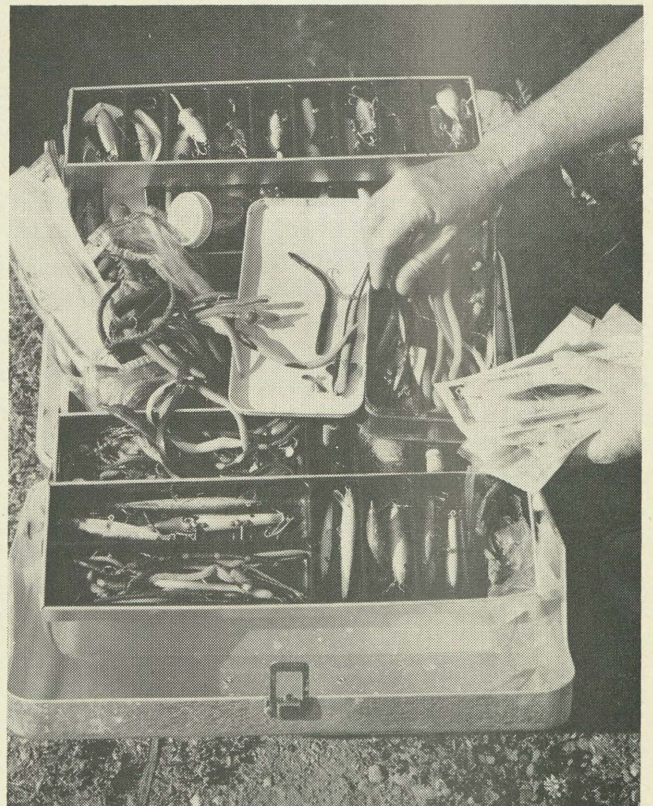
Nordmann has a whole batch of old rods he's picked up somewhere and uses pieces from them for the repair work. The average fisherman could dig up the other materials but might not have the necessary piece of glass for a plug (solid glass is better than hollow for this).

How much would it cost to have a tackle repairman fix a rod this way? Well, Nordmann says he's never established a price on it but thinks he could do them all day for \$2 each and show a profit. It doesn't take him long to do the work although drying time is considerable.

LOOKING BACK ON YEARS of plastic worms, now an established part of the bass fishing scene, it is interesting to note the rise and fall of the various colors. At present, the purple worm seems to have the upper hand, a shade that would have invoked laughter 10 years ago.

The first popular worms were black, followed by successive periods of red and blue supremacy before purple took over. The plain black ones look pretty drab beside later models which have all colors in delicate stripings. Some of them are not worms at all but snakes with realistic heads and, of course, there are all the lizards and other squirmy plastic teasers.

Then, there are the flavorings. In a tackle store the other day, I was surprised to see the tail of a plastic worm disappearing into the mouth of a small boy and inquiry revealed the proprietor loses a lot of profit to worm slurping juveniles. He guesses it won't hurt them seriously but doesn't recommend it.



Quite a few bass fishermen's tackle boxes have come to look like this; mostly plastic worms and "snakes" with the plugs and spoons crowded out of the main compartments. Of late, the purple worm seems to be number-one seller in most areas.



THE SOUTH IS FULL of beautiful cypress lakes which, in turn, are full of fish—they say.

Perhaps it's coincidence and perhaps stupidity but I've never done a very good job of fishing among the cypress knees. Oh, I've caught a few fish but nothing to write home about and I must confess to more success along the less picturesque grassy and bonnety shores.

Cautiously I have inquired of other bass fishermen and have been relieved to learn that my experience isn't unusual, my interviews adding up to the conclusion that cypress bass are a bit more pernickity than others.

---

BOOK REVIEW DEPARTMENT again: Joe Brooks, the famous fly fisherman and TV fish catcher, has a book called "Complete Guide to Fishing Across North America," recently published by OUTDOOR LIFE (Harper & Row) which is the most comprehensive where-to-go fishing book I've ever seen, 600 pages of concise listings, maps and description. Brooks, who has been gouging away at this one for more than five years, bears down on the information with a minimum of flowery phrases. With the amount of dope he sets forth, there's no time for fancy flows of rhetoric.

---

QUITE A FEW BASS fishermen use 18-pound test braided line in plug casting and some go clear up to 25-pound or stronger.

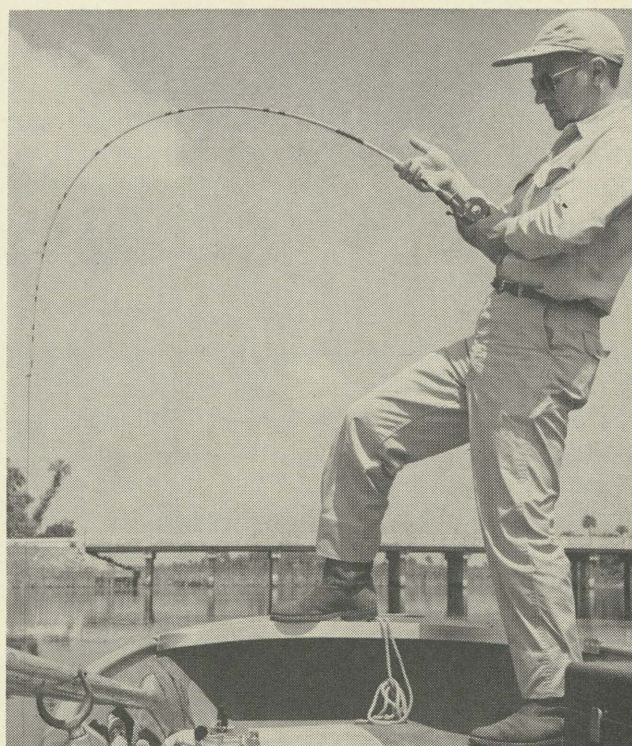
It is hard to see how anyone breaks line that heavy on a fish that probably weighs less than ten pounds but it gets done pretty regularly. Of course it usually doesn't break at anything like it's advertised strength, generally being worn at the lure end and possibly weakened by inferior knots.

Although something around 12-pound test casts better than heavier tests, I've never seen much advantage in going smaller with braided line. The little stuff doesn't cast much easier and can be a nuisance because it's easily cut or frayed. It's also more prone to tangle in case of a backlash.

I don't know the percentage but more and more casters use monofilament line on baitcasting reels. It can be used in smaller size and the original criticism of excessive stiffness has been pretty well taken care of in manufacture. Generally it is not so easily thumbed, accuracy isn't quite as good as with braided line and it requires a reel without gaps at the spool ends. Tightly compressed monofilament puts terrific strain on a reel and will break or bend all but the sturdiest spools. Although mono wears longer than braided line, it can be nicked and greatly weakened by something that would cause only minor fraying with braided stuff.

Much baitcasting line is damaged when a loose loop fans the pillars or worm gear of a reel and I think mono is more prone to suffer from this.

Some of the new, limp monofilaments will give



If the line isn't weakened by age or sloppy knots, it takes a lot of heaving to break a 12-pound test.

extreme distance on plug reels and you can't beat them for pier casting. It is with surface plugs and the uneven retrieve that they tend to cause back-lashing when spooled with uneven pressure. That always results when a surface bait is twitched hard, then reeled gently for a few feet and yanked again.

---

"ANTI-BACKLASH" adjustments are available in almost all plug reels, simply a means of tightening the spool so that it doesn't turn so easily as to cause overruns and consequent backlashes. Most of the mono users I know tighten the spool down a little. Most of the experienced braided line users let it run free, depending entirely on their thumbs for regulation.

The "fast" baitcasting reel (one with a light, easily turned spool) as manufactured isn't too fast for experienced casters when the spool runs free. I have heard tournament casters say that some of their hand-built reels were a little too fast but that came from extensive hand work and those aren't fishing reels.

The reason mono generally requires a little spool tension is simply that it isn't "sticky" and can easily spring off the spool at high speed.

---

WHEN I GET TOO ECSTATIC about a product it generally falls apart immediately but I'm going out on a limb about a landing net I bought the other day.

This one has a 2-foot handle and the frame is

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from preceding page)

made of aluminum tubing, filled with Styrofoam so it won't sink. The hoop part is made rigid by some bends that put it into a triangular, scoop shape and the netting is of Polyethylene guaranteed for three years. If it has a disadvantage it would be that the irregularly shaped hoop isn't quite as easy to stow as a simple, round one. I believe this is the best boat net I've ever used. It's moderately priced.

Nets haven't hung together very well for me. Cotton netting rots badly when continually soaked in fish slime and improperly washed after use. I've had some nylon nets of pretty small line and they eventually were cut, usually by snook gills. The polyethylene can be cut, of course, but it's pretty heavy stuff and I'll bet it lasts a long time.

Aluminum net frames will stand a few bends and straightenings but usually they eventually break. I believe this new one is rigid enough to last.

It's produced by Ed Cumings, Inc., 2305 Branch Road, Flint, Michigan 48508. I bought mine at Ramsay Brothers in Daytona Beach.

FISH GET A LONG WAY from home, on purpose, accidentally, or just for the heck of it.

This is most interesting when it involves salt water fish in fresh water or the other way around and it is complicated by the activities of anadromous fish who ascend fresh water rivers from the sea for spawning.

The most famous of sport fish that leave the salt for fresh water are the Atlantic salmon and the Pacific steelhead. In Florida the shad get top billing in this class and our sport fishery for shad is entirely in "fresh" water, mainly on the St. Johns River system. Our shad spawn well over 100 miles from the ocean.

There are some other salt water gamefish that get a long way from the sea in Florida. Tarpon are caught, at times, anywhere across the state in the canals that enter Lake Okeechobee. They are occasionally found in Lake Monroe at Sanford more than 100 miles from Jacksonville by water. Snook get up that far too although catching either fish is a bit unusual. The flounder is also found 'way upstream but it is possible this can be part of a life cycle and I'm no flounder expert.

Although there must be arbitrary lines for law enforcement purposes, it's hard to say just where "fresh" water begins. We do know that many salt water fish can live happily in what's commonly called fresh water more than 100 miles from the sea and they can be landlocked there. Some species will reproduce. Striped bass have done well in landlocked waters.

On the other side of the picture, black bass can live in very brackish water, competing in the chow line right along with snook, tarpon, channel bass, sea trout, sheepshead and all of the other inshore



This rugged landing net has some tricky bends in the hoop to add strength, and the bag is made of polyethylene, guaranteed for three years. That bass ain't bad either.

residents. However, they evidently don't reproduce in water with heavy salinity and, when forced into the salt by a low water table they seem to disappear after a few weeks, probably as prey to salt water species, possibly as victims of too much salt. I am not saying that they don't reproduce in somewhat salty water—simply that there's a limit.

In either case, fresh to salt or salt to fresh, a gradual change seems to be necessary. In other words, a fish can acclimate himself to a gradual change of salinity that would knock him out if he had to take it suddenly.

SHOOTING AT FISH with firearms, a dangerous practice that's generally illegal, isn't often successful although many offshore skippers will pull down on a surfacing shark that seems to be about to attack a hooked fish—and surfacing sharks have been collected by commercial sharkers through the use of rifles. A fish can be killed, of course, if hit on the surface or very near it.

For a time there was a controversial sport of fish shooting with shotguns in one of the northern states, the marksman sitting in a tree.

Round shot doesn't seem to ricochet much although a rifle bullet will glance off water even at a fairly steep angle. Those who have dispatched crippled ducks on water (or ground-sluced them during a bad day) will note that most of the charge seems to stay down.

Although a pistol or rifle bullet loses its steam



quickly in water and simply sinks after short penetration, there can be considerable concussion in the immediate vicinity. Many years ago when it was legal to hunt frogs with pistols in a Western state, another fellow and I found that we could knock a floating frog colder than a wedge by simply shooting near his head with a large caliber handgun. Later on our whole sack of frogs would come to life, giving a very interesting effect indeed.

Water is evidently a terrible agent of concussion as I remember many underwater demolition men flattened by near misses during World War II. That, of course, was shells—not bullets. I am guessing that a rifle bullet wouldn't stun a man-sized creature no matter how close it came to him in water.

The exact angle at which a bullet would glance from or enter water would depend, I suppose, upon bullet shape and velocity. Anyway, water and gunfire are dangerous combinations in settled communities.

---

FISHING VESTS aren't stylish in Florida although they're just as handy for carrying a batch of gear here as they are in Maine or Michigan. It would seem that they'd be perfect for pier anglers as well as any sort of wading fishermen, even though they were developed for fresh water trout seekers. A good vest will last indefinitely because there are no real wear points. The price runs from less than \$10 to around \$30. Sure beats flies in your hat, leaders in your pockets, both hands full of cheese sandwiches and essentials left at home.

---

CHOW TIME Attractors are brilliantly reflective skirts for adhesive attachment to lures or lines. The stuff is "metalized mylar," each metallic strip being about as wide as the plastic strips making up the conventional "rubber skirts."

It can be stuck to a plug, line or jig and seems to stay put. It's durable and has been successful in both fresh and salt water as an added flash and glitter. These skirts are about 20 cents each, come in several colors and I've had good luck with them.

We tore up one and used the strands as fly dressing. It seemed to be somewhat lighter than conventional tinsel we generally use for glitter. When we included strips in streamers it worked better with each strip split. Otherwise it fluttered and set up extra casting resistance.

It's good stuff from The MacAllister Company, Inc., 5710 W. 36th St., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416.

---

QUITE A FEW fishermen run afoul of too much Florida sun. Week-end anglers generally get nothing worse than a painful burn but guides and fishing regulars can get into real trouble and the "healthy tan" isn't so healthy if it's overdone year after year.

In digging up some inside dope for my version of a technical article on the dangers of too much sun, I got myself scared stiff by some M.D.'s who matter-of-factly explained in terms I couldn't understand at all how the human body has just so much tolerance for sun exposure. After about so long you use up your tolerance and instead of being able to take more and more sun you're in trouble. Then come scaly skin areas that don't heal and possibly small, wart-like growths. Next is "skin cancer" which requires surgical attention but isn't taken too seriously by some who've had several carved off. However, it can turn into really dangerous cancer that attacks internally.

This isn't a forecast of doom and recommendation of sunbonnets for everybody but touchiness where the sun is concerned is a serious warning and I know some veteran fishermen who have to be thoroughly sun-proofed before every trip, which means the trips aren't nearly as frequent as they used to be.

Maybe we shouldn't be critical of Florida's main product but it goes best in moderate doses.

---

BOAT WAKES CONTINUE to be a sore point between fishermen and pleasure boaters. In some parts of Florida great care is taken and on other waters it's quite jolly to jostle a fisherman in a very small boat.

Some deliberate "doughnutting" of fishermen has actually led to violence in a few instances.

Speed, of course, isn't the whole problem. Most boaters know that a sudden letdown from a high speed plane is likely to stir up a wake worse than anything the speeder could produce while up on top. Dropping off plane is a courtesy gesture, even if it does more harm than staying up.

I've never been scared by a wake as long as the maker keeps a reasonable distance away and there's generally room for him to turn out a bit for you.

I really got the works on a recent weekend, however, when I was fishing a wide grass flat on the St. Johns. All of the jolly boys were out and there was plenty of foam in the channel but they couldn't bother me back on the flat—I thought. The boat I was using was 10 feet long and I had a friend aboard—no ocean-going rig but generally quite safe for normal river use.

Somebody decided to abandon the navigation markers and take a shortcut across the flat. He was wheeling a big outdrive and he never turned out a foot for me. Ordinarily I'd be watching for such a move but this guy took me by surprise, zoomed by within a few feet and nearly swamped us before we could get the oars working.

A beer-can waving party of jerks?

Not at all. They appeared to be middle-aged boaters who simply didn't realize what they were doing. ●



## New pontoons designed for canoe installation offers light weight outrigger-style stabilization

By ELGIN WHITE



IN YEARS PAST, Florida often has been fortunate to have rugged outdoorsmen occupying the big chair in the state capitol building, helping sell the Sunshine State's magnificent fresh air, sunshine, fishing and boating commodities.

Until Haydon Burns took over the reins of state government in the city of seven hills, in January, 1965, the chief salesman of Florida's great outdoors was former governor Leroy Collins. Burns' predecessors all extolled Florida's virtues of sea 'n sun, but most were not the ardent enthusiasts for getting out and "doin' it himself" like Collins and Burns.

It is reasonable to assume, after talking with Governor Burns, that had not a political calling gotten to him first, he might have been in the fore front of the nation's boating bugs. He is now, to the limited extent that the pressure of office will permit.

Governor Burns was fortunate in spending most of his years since World War II as mayor of Jacksonville, giving him access to some of the finest boating and fishing country in the world. When he got the opportunity, he and his lovely First Lady, Mildred, would hie to the hinterlands in search of big black bass, or whip over to the ocean for a go at tarpon or sailfish.

As a matter of fact, the Governor is now and has been a member of the Miami Beach Rod & Reel Club and holds the all-time club record for amberjack. He nailed a 105-pounder about two years ago, and the MB R&R boys and girls have been after that mark ever since.

Burns is a tall, rangy man, and gives every appearance of being a solid outdoorsman. He has caught many tarpon weighing substantially more than 100 lbs. and also boated a 12' 10" blue marlin that tipped the scales at 600 lbs.!

"This was a team effort," the Guv smiled. "Mildred and I both had this baby on, and in spite of crossing lines, the jumping of the marlin, and the hectic time that followed, we were able to bring him in in about 45 minutes."

That's pretty good time, even without crossed lines, I'd say.

I had a chance to see Burns in action last year when we went on the Legislative Boat-A-Cade on the Suwannee River. He had a new Thunderbird Formula Junior with him for the trip, and that baby could move on out.

The Governor is no mamby-pamby boatman. When he gets behind the wheel, he wants to a-go go! He always gets into wide open water, though, before letting her out, and then he sets sail. We



Governor and Mrs. Haydon Burns, when rare occasions permit, like to hit the aqua-trail in their trim craft "First Lady," for long romps on Florida's many lakes and streams. This photo was made on last year's Legislative Boat-A-Cade along the Suwannee River.





Jim Rutherford, of "Camping Journal," and John Wilhelm, the "Florida Outdoorsman," demonstrate the new Piedmont pontoons on a Grumman canoe.

tried to keep up with him on a run down the Suwannee, but had to give it up. So, we just waited until he horsed it by and grabbed a picture of he and Mildred riding high. (No political pun intended there.)

"I like to jump a boat," Burns admitted. "And I like a good solid craft under me, too. I am always most careful about safety in a boat, but when I get open water and a hull that will cut the mustard, I like to hot rod it."

Who wouldn't? When you get one of those double-hulled Thunderbirds under you, it's like getting in Dick Petty's blue Plymouth for a run around the Daytona Speedway. You don't puddle along and watch the scenery!

Pressures on time in the Governor's office have limited Burns' boating activity a great deal, but when the opportunity does arise, he and Mildred make the most of it. One Sunday afternoon not too long ago they got into his 17' pet and dropped in the water at Jim Woodruff dam and cruised all the way to Apalachicola and back. "We must have averaged about 28 M.P.H. for the run," the Guv stated, "and that was one beautiful trip. I think every boatman ought to take a run down the Apalachicola. Sure pleased us, I can tell you."

Guess it is only natural that many Florida leaders, from the Governor on down, spend a lot of recreational time boating around our state's many fabulous waters. I reckon when Burns has completed his tour of duty as Florida's Chief Executive, he'll take his Thunderbird, Mildred, and some children and grandchildren and spend a lot of time on the water—just catching up!

---

REFLECTIONS ON A VISIT to the Miami Boat Show: This year's show, as usual, was bigger 'n better than ever. I don't know where they are going to hold next year's panorama of boating, but they're run-

ning out of room at Miami's Dinner Key Auditorium. Peg Leyshon, who has ram-rodged this event for years, and steps down after this year's tremendous show, said they had to turn down 75 exhibitions for lack of space. There are more boats, more people, more money, and less space than ever.

Visiting this splendorous extravaganza, as they would say in Hollywood, makes one's mouth drool at the fantastic number and different types of boats, motors, rigging, accessories, trailers, electronic gear, fishing equipment, and beautiful girls in boating attire.

The queen of the show was the big and luxurious Matthews 65' cruiser that you can pick up for peanuts—if your peanuts are in the shape of diamonds! It is a costly rig but one of the most magnificent yachts ever seen under the roof of the Miami Boat Show. If you have a few hundred thousand dollars lying around and feel the urge to buy a boat, you couldn't go wrong on this baby . . . she is a beaut!

I saw some classy charters and yachts tied up at Pier 5 that even had fireplaces in them! Nothing like the comforts of home, even when you're at sea! And these fireplaces work, too, George!

---

JOHN WILHELM, WHO ENTERTAINS visiting writers and editors coming to Florida for story material aboard the "Florida Outdoorsman" trailer, came across a fine little gadget in a recent outing with Jim Rutherford that canoeists ought to flip over.

It is a solid unit, pontoon arrangement, made of aluminum, that snaps amidships on any canoe and keeps the fidgety craft as stable as a battleship. This is especially convenient when you're utilizing a small outboard on a canoe and want to make some time.

The pontoons, designed and distributed by Piedmont Pontoons of Charlottesville, Virginia, are so designed as to offer an outriggering effect, but with a minimum of weight, and situated amidships to offer

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from preceding page)

very little resistance to water as the ol' Indian invention skims along. These are excellent canoe accessories, and you can get plenty of info by writing the firm direct.

AND WHO WAS THE WAG who said boating hadn't grown into competition with fishing as an outdoor recreational pursuit? Check these figures, recently released by the Outboard Boating Club of America:

"More Americans spent more on boats and boating in 1965 than ever before, according to two marine associations.

"In their annual report on the boating industry and sport, the Outboard Boating Club of America and the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers said \$2,605,000,000 was spent during 1965 for boating equipment, fuel and related products and services, an increase of \$78 million over the previous year.

"The nation's pleasure craft fleet now totals 7,865,000, an increase of 165,000 over 1964, the associations stated. The report said 39,325,000 persons went boating more than twice in 1965, up 825,000 from 1964."

From those figures, you can see boating, or people engaging in boating, now compares favorably with fishing in this li'l ol' country, which claims close to 38,000,000 anglers.

RAN ACROSS AN EQUIVALENT to the famous Mrs. Malaprop of fictional fame, who gained reknown by murdering the Queen's English. It was during a look-see at the line-up of boats at the Miami Boat Show, and this sweet young thing, gorgeous in every conceivable way, was talking real "salty" talk with a group of boating enthusiasts.

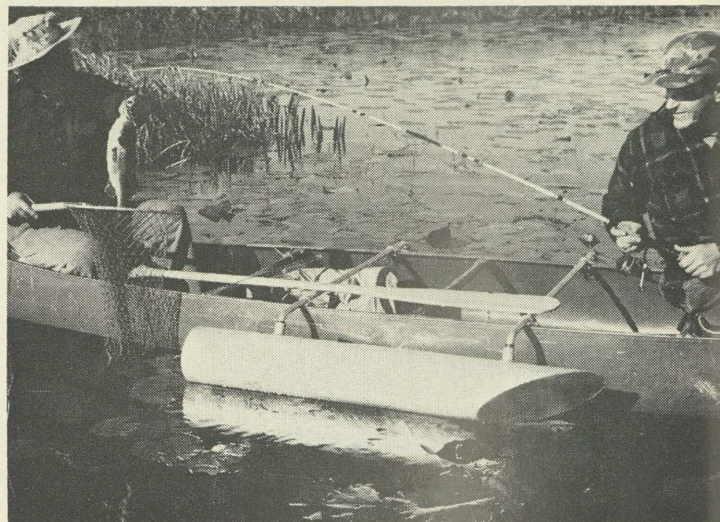
"We really have our boat in good shape, now," she enthused to any and all who would listen, "but we had to change propellers oh, I don't know how many times to stop the captivation."

I got lost there until I recalled she was probably talking about "cavitation." Sure enough, she was. Well, that little gal would make any propeller "captive," I believe, but she did bring up a point that a lot of boatmen have occasional trouble with, and some boatmen have a lot of trouble with.

Bob Brewster of Mercury has some salient points to make about cavitation, should it be one of your particular problems.

Brewster allows that if you're having cavitation troubles, the culprit is probably the propeller, all right. Seemingly insignificant nicks or bends in the blades may be so located as to upset the smooth flow of water and encourage cavitation. Smoothing out these rough spots may remedy the situation.

Also, a propeller, though in good condition, may be the wrong size or design. Changes of propeller blade shape or dimensions, too small to be detected



John Wilhelm, left, and Bill Robinson, outdoor editor of the Atlanta Journal, find the new Piedmont pontoons have a stabilizing effect when catching fish from a canoe.

by the eye, can have an appreciable effect on performance.

For example, if each blade is made just one-eighth of an inch shorter, the propeller's diameter is reduced by one-quarter of an inch. A swath one-quarter of an inch wide around the circumference of the propeller represents an appreciable reduction or increase in the volume of water thrown back on each revolution.

If you have ever looked at an outboard racing enthusiast's trailer, you've seen, in addition to his rig, a box for tools and parts, and a surprising array of propellers. A racer will usually test several props before choosing the one he deems best suited for each particular race.

While the last fraction of top speed isn't as vital to the pleasure boater as it is to the racer, remember that in the family boat field there's a wide range of hull sizes, weights, shapes and loads, so it makes sense to start out with a propeller that suits your rig best.

IT WAS REPORTED IN THIS column in the March issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE that gasoline supplies were available for boating tourists running out to old Fort Jefferson on Dry Tortugas. Found out this isn't the case. The National Park people on the Fort, who do a tremendous job in hosting tourists who do visit the old structure, advised that gasoline is there, but it is not for sale to the general public, as there are quite a few needs of the Park Service folks that must be met daily.

So, re-evaluate your petrol supplies should you contemplate a journey to the land of one dollar bricks. Be sure you have enough aboard to make the 135-mile round trip journey from Key West to the Tortugas and return. And I repeat—it is a fabulous trip, don't miss it if you get the opportunity to go. ●



# BOBWHITE QUAIL

By WALLACE HUGHES

**D**URING THE SPRING and early summer months, the friendly "Bob-Bob-White" whistle of the cock quail is a familiar sound to rural dwellers throughout Florida. During the fall and winter hunting season the quail rates as one of the more abundant and important game species.

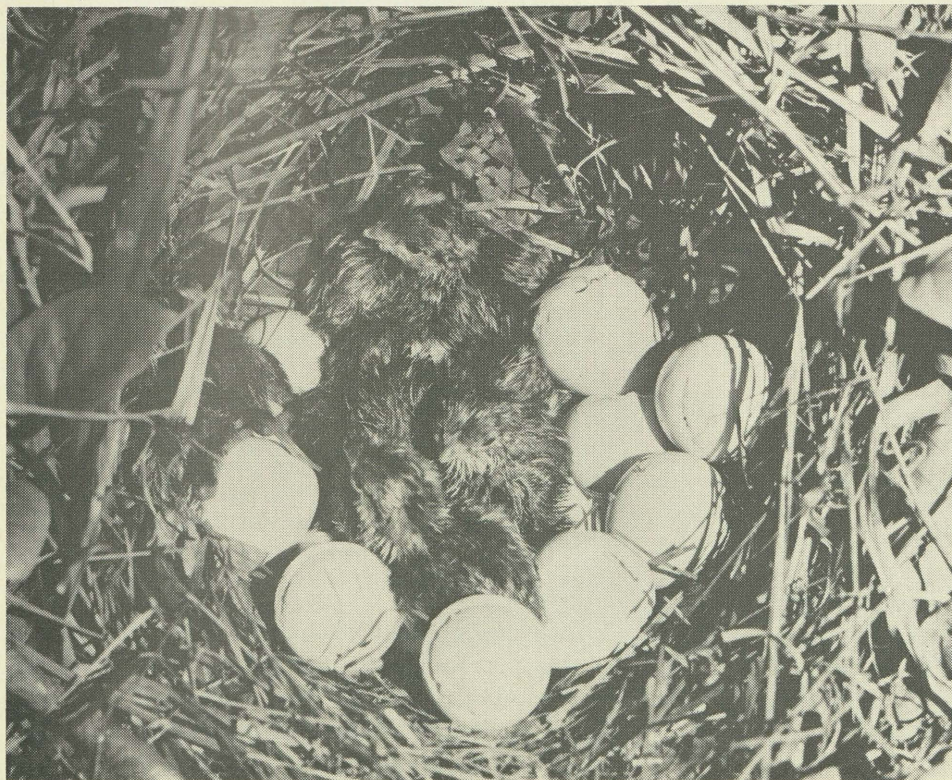
Quail found throughout the northern half of Florida is the Eastern Bobwhite, and averages about six ounces in weight. The slightly smaller quail of south Florida, known as Florida Quail, has an average weight of about five ounces. Florida Quail is slightly darker in color and more heavily "barred" on the under-sides.

The range of the two birds overlap across central Florida where they freely intermix. In the fall and winter quail are found in groups of a dozen to twenty or more birds, known as "coveys." ●



Photo By Wallace Hughes

Photo By Karl Maslowski



The quail nesting season in north Florida extends from early-May to the first of October, with the peak in June and July. Nesting in south Florida begins and ends two to four weeks earlier. The white-throated cock and buff-throated hen share in building the nest, a partially domed structure made of grass located on the ground, and usually near fence lines, paths or roads. The hen lays an average clutch of 14 white eggs. The male assists the hen in incubating the eggs, and in raising the young. The incubation time is 23 days.





Author's son, Larry, evaluates results of a few minute's worth of reef fishing. Both the bass, left, and catfish took shiners.

A little underwater  
"planting" can  
improve your  
fresh water fishing

By ART HUTT

# PISCATORIAL PAMPERING

I'M RISKING A 3-ounce sinker across the scalp—or a dorsal spine in my hand—in comparing women and fish, but I'd still maintain that they both respond to an offering of shelter and food.

Most women, that is.

And most fish.

With fish assumedly being foremost in our minds, let's take a look at what can be done.

But don't worry. You'll never make your fishing a cinch, but you can improve your fishing if you cater to your catches beforehand.

You can go about it in either of the two ways or combine them for the ultimate effect. By appealing to these two basic and natural instincts, shelter and food, you can more consistently count on a bulging string of bluegills, a mess of fat cats, or a braggin' size bass or two.

All you have to do is to build these fish a reef home. If you want to be a real sport and have a few dollars to invest, feed them. Or skip the home and just try the food.

They say Florida has about 30,000 lakes. If you live on one, you have no problem. If you are land-based, maybe a lakefront friend will respond to a persuasive discussion. An energetic outdoor organization could sponsor such a project. Or even a Boy Scout troop could pick the reef-building idea as a conservation achievement.

Unless you're lucky enough to own a whole lake or enough property so a neighborly problem will not develop, it might be best to talk over your proposed enterprise with the folks next door. You might even get some unexpected aid. Best place for your



reef is at the end of or alongside your dock, or in front of your property somewhere.

The principle of an artificial reef, whether in fresh or salt water, is to concentrate any fish species which may otherwise be scattered all over the lake. While such a reef in fresh water will magnetize more fish in a lake barren of all sunken and shoreline vegetation, this same reef will still collect fish in a lake which has these attractions.

Before it sounds as though a reef will take the intrigue out of your fishing, be reminded that except in the fishing-lure advertising world, there is no one formula for consistent limit catches—a circumstance you should be happy about. The spice of sport-fishing lies in its uncertainty. Your only gain will be in knowing that a reef will tend to collect your fish and that your chances are bettered by fishing near it.

For a change you'll know where to drown your wigglers or crickets or where to exercise your shiner or casting arm for the highest potential.

Artificial reefs originated in salt water back in 1950 when broken masonry materials were dumped in deep water near Long Island and called the McAllister Grounds, followed three years later by 14,000 concrete-filled beer cases submerged off Fire Island by charter boat captains.

Since then, salt-water materials have become more sophisticated, running the gamut through old streetcar and auto bodies, refrigerators, broken tiles and blocks up to the pre-formed, hollow-core, concrete units such as those used in the Walter Hudson Reef off Cocoa Beach.

In fresh-water, among the variety of materials are Christmas-trees-in-January, limbs from trees, tires, concrete or tile blocks—there's no limit on ideas, except you wouldn't want to turn your lake bottom into a dump. Use your own good judgement,

but make sure the water is deep enough so you won't snag a skier or punish a prop.

As an example, last year the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, headed by Biologist Ed Zagar, and working with the South Lake Sportsmen's Club, used 1,000 old tires at 10¢ each to build a reef in Lake Minneola at Clermont. After punching holes in the tires so they wouldn't trap air, the workers wired a quartet of the tires together and deposited the units in a pre-investigated spot in the barren-bottomed lake. The reef was "fed" 40-50 lbs. of pelletized fish food per day for over a month. It is too early for any resounding results but the implications are that tires may not be the best reef materials. As long as the food lasted, catches of pan-fish and catfish picked up. When the food was exhausted, the fishing declined.

*(Continued on next page)*



Photos By The Author

Old tires were used by Commission personnel and sportsman's club to build a reef in Lake Minneola, at Clermont. The reef, marked with a conspicuous float, above right, is not yet old enough to reach any conclusions about the use of tires as a fresh-water reef material.







Larry Hutt, left, lays out a variety of commercial fish food, cafeteria style. Block at left is mixture of cottonseed and soybean meals, as are the pellets in center. Heavy blocks and tiles, lower left, wired to trees or brush are needed to sink and hold in place reef materials. A heave-ho of weighted trees, below, should be made in water that is deep enough at reef site so materials will not snag skier or punish a prop.



*(Continued from preceding page)*

Currently at Lake Juliana near Lakeland, a Commission crew under Biologist C. L. Phillippy is testing various materials for reefs while up in northwest Florida, Biologists Frank Arrendale and Phil Hester have suggested that cedar trees, where available, are advantageous because of their thick foliage and decay resistance.

These biologists are testing cattle food with 20% crude protein manufactured in pellet form, soybean cakes, and loose bulk soybean materials. These foods increase microscopic plankton which attracts forage fish which in turn attract the larger game fish.

After the big freeze of December, 1962, when the annoying whine of chain saws filled the air, a sportsmen's group at Clermont took advantage of these citrus trimmings to gather and to sink 37 clusters of these branches in 5-to-6 foot deep water along the northwest and northeast shore of Lake Palatlahaha (at the southwest corner of Lake Minnehaha). This energetic group fed these reefs with canned hominy, simply by punching holes in the

cans and sinking them around the reefs. According to Howard Young, Clermont, within six months the speck (crappie) and bream fishing was outstanding.

From our own experience, Christmas trees will work very well. Living on a clear, clean-bottomed lake, we decided to try to improve and to localize our fishing. Several seasons ago we gathered a dozen or so Christmas trees, happy in the thought we were prolonging their ephemeral existence, and in the fact that these trees were easy to collect. We scrounged around for old wire and broken blocks, tied and weighted pairs of trees together (it takes quite a bit of weight to sink Christmas trees), and hauled them to the 15-foot-deep dredge hole in front of the house and dumped them in.

We've had rewarding reef fishing ever since. No record catches. Nothing phenomenal. But still a lot more excitement than you can find any place else in the lake. Every year we add a few more trees.

From our catches we know our reef attracts shell-crackers and bluegills, for they'll usually keep a bobber bouncing, but we can't brag on their size. Cat-



fish must enjoy its shadows, for they'll frequently inhale a small-sized shiner on our hooks. And a few bass keep the school of brook silversides minnows which hang around the reef in constant agitation and will sometimes attack our offerings by mistake. Although they are reputed to love brushpiles, we haven't caught any crappies around ours.

By the way, if you construct a reef, tie your items together in bunches so you can haul them out in units should a removal, a most unlikely event, someday be necessary.

Happily, through the development of fish foods in fisheries research programs during the last decade, you don't have to visit the local chicken plucking plant for a bucket of entrails or the local abattoir for a jar of dried blood. These materials amount to garbage in the lake and while they will attract catfish, they'll also attract an undesirable number of turtles and rough fish.

You can feed simply, like retired Dr. V. W. Brinkerhoff at Clermont who uses oatmeal. Or you can go to the local feed store and have them order special pelletized fish foods—usually mixtures of cottonseed or soybean materials. Or pelletized cattle food can be used. One huge meat-packing company offers a 25-pound block of materials which can be placed in the burlap bag supplied and suspended from a float or tied over the area to be fed. This block, cottonseed or soybean cake, and the other foods, too, can be placed on an underwater platform close enough to the surface so that you can see when more food is needed. The food erodes off into the water through water movement.

Bob Dinsmore at Lake Yale Resort near Eustis has used the 25-pound blocks tied off the end of his fishing pier with some success for his customers.

Foods apparently do two things. Broadcast into the water, some of the smaller pellets are consumed

directly by panfish and catfish. In the water a few minutes, they puff up and can easily be sucked in by these fish. Others that deteriorate more slowly attract the previously mentioned micro-organisms to form the base of the food pyramid—with the angler sitting on top.

Feeding attracts the panfish and catfish directly, the bass indirectly. Once you've started, you should continue the feeding or the fish will once again wander.

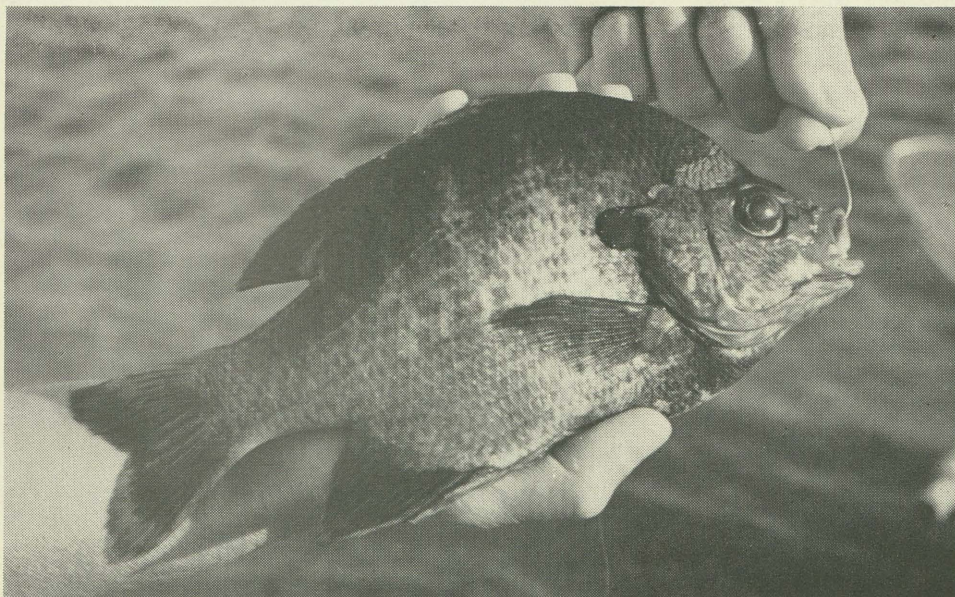
If you have any qualms about the legality of using such fish attractors, relax. Quite unlike the federal laws covering dove hunting over fields which have food placed on them and in which a trip to the local judge is a certainty, the Wildlife Code of the State of Florida contains no law against such activities. Therefore, concentrating fish by food or reefs is entirely permissible. As stated, neither of these systems, combined or singly, will work miracles for you. You'll still have your bad days.

And remember, too, anything you put out in the water is fair game for anybody to use. It may be your efforts and your money supplying the feed, but that doesn't exclude any fisherman from taking advantage of your efforts. You may have a moral right to ask anybody to "lay off" but you don't have a legal right.

The other day a former neighbor of mine when we lived in town commented that he and a friend had been trolling in our lake, mentioning also that they had caught three nice bass. I told them about my project out front, pinpointing the reef's location, and inviting them to make use of it.

His eyes brightened as he exclaimed, "We trolled all around the lake but that's where we caught the fish, right in front of your house!"

Sounds like a lived-happily-ever-after fish tale, but that's what shelter and food will do. ●



Bluegill bream and other panfish are reef residents. If you hurry your cricket or worm down past the little ones, you can end up with the economy size. Catfish are drawn to reefs, and although they are no beauty-prize winners, they provide prime table fare.



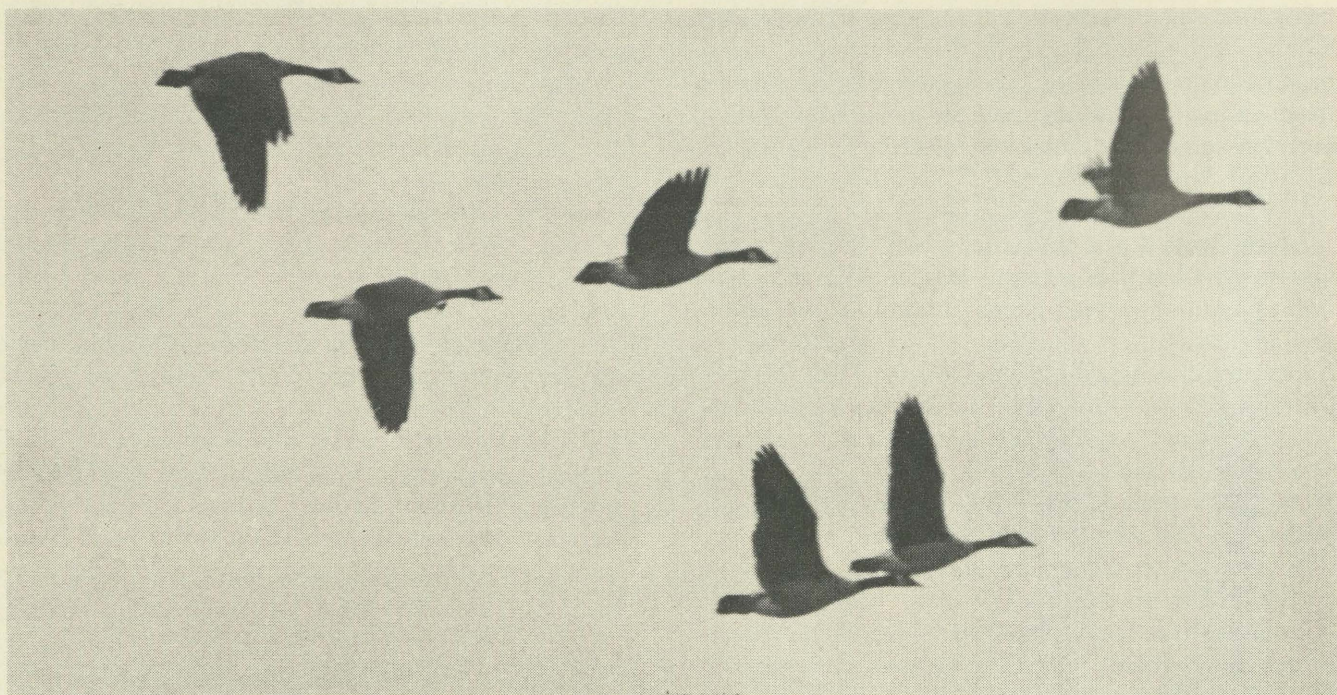


Photo By Wallace Hughes

A decade of continuous population decline has brought forth the all important Florida question . . .

# Where Has The Wild

**F**LORIDA HUNTERS MAY WONDER where the wild goose goes, or where it has gone, as there has been a steady decline in the Canada goose population in Florida since 1956. In the winter of 1956, Florida's Canada Goose population numbered approximately 29,170. Four years later less than half that many spent the winter in Florida.

By 1964 the flocks had halved again and at the present time there are probably less than 6,000 geese that winter in Florida. If the decline continues at this rate the last goose to be shot by a hunter in Florida will be bagged before 1970, if an open season can be justified until the last are gone.

When the downward population trend became pronounced in 1959, wildlife research was undertaken by the waterfowl research project to learn whether hunting pressure was the cause of such a decline. This study revealed that the population continued to decline while the harvest remained approximately constant.

At the same time a large wintering goose flock was building at the newly established Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge at Decatur, Alabama, where geese had never wintered before, and at other places to the north made attractive to geese. These facts

strongly suggest that the real cause for the Florida decline is the "stopping off" further north of birds which traditionally came to Florida.

At one time, when most of the eastern United States was forested, most of the eastern Canada geese wintered somewhere along the southern coasts—from Maryland to Louisiana. Only these coastal areas furnished in any quantity the three basic requirements for wintering geese—large expanses of open, unfrozen water; treeless land areas for resting and loafing; and food. Now this situation has changed. Large water areas such as the TVA impoundment have been created by dams, and food and open spaces have been provided by changed agricultural practices. Particularly important among these from the goose standpoint is the planting of winter pasture—oats, rye and clover—and the development and widespread use of the mechanical grain harvester which not only leaves a great deal of grain on the ground but also tends to knock down the vegetative growth so that geese can and will enter the fields. Add to this the use of a rotary mower after the harvest, and a banquet is spread before the hungry goose.

At a meeting of the Game and Fresh Water Fish



Commission in Tallahassee, December 3, 1965, the members of the commission expressed great concern for the diminishing goose population and urged the game management division to step up its study of the Canada goose in Florida and to explore every possible method of returning this game bird to the Florida hunter.

Florida does not stand alone in the present day Canada goose dilemma and other southern states along the Mississippi flyway have reported a similar decline in population. Where once the Mississippi Valley geese were known to use practically the entire length of the river as far as the Gulf Coast during their annual winter migration, ninety percent of these geese that leave the breeding grounds in northern Canada are now concentrating in southern Illinois. Most of the remaining ten percent  
*(Continued on next page)*

As part of a special research program aimed at returning Florida's "gone goose," more than 300 Canada geese were captured this past winter, marked for future study and released. Detailed information recorded by biologists of the Game Management Division will help in "tracking" migration habits of the "honkers." Dale Crider, right, measures the bill of a goose. The weight of a large gander, lower right, is checked by Gordon Spratt. Before the geese are released, below, they are each tagged with a special numbered aluminum leg band.



Photo By E. M. DeFoor

# Goose Gone?

By HAROLD W. ASHLEY  
Commissioner, Central Region

Photos By Jim Floyd







Photo By E. M. DeFoor

*(Continued from preceding page)*

spend the winter months at several locations in Tennessee, Indiana and Kentucky rather than follow the age old migration routes to the Gulf Coast.

One of the objectives of the wildlife research study is to determine if the Florida goose population is being "short-stopped" and if such is the condition it can probably be proven within one year.

Heading the accelerated Canada goose research project is Dale Crider, waterfowl biologist. Crider has outlined the research project as including seven basic objectives: 1. Adapt experimental drug capture techniques to wild geese to accelerate present banding programs. 2. Test methods of marking geese so that they can be identified at a distance. 3. Inventory the Florida goose population each year. 4. Estimate the annual productivity of geese wintering in Florida. 5. Learn the distribution and movement patterns of geese in Florida. 6. Learn the origin of the geese now wintering in Florida and determine whether the major sources are the same as in the past. 7. Determine whether "leadership" qualities in geese have potential application in dispersing large northern winter concentrations southward.

For years this migratory waterfowl was hunted without any basic research or study, and now that there is a need for this type information the biolo-

The use of drugged bait, a new and safe method of capturing wild game, provides "sleepy" geese for the program's research data. The geese are easily handled on a portable banding table, left, designed and built by Commission biologists. After processing, the geese are transferred, below, to recovery pens.



Photo By Jim Floyd

gists will have to start at the beginning to obtain it. To make the assignment more complex there is a time element and Florida wildlife research personnel will have to accomplish in a few years what might, under ordinary circumstances, require ten or more years.

Should research indicate that Florida's Canada goose population is being "short stopped" at areas further north an extensive effort will be made to encourage the more northern states to alter their existing feeding programs and to plant feeds other than hard grains. With the absence of hard grain it is anticipated that the geese will soon deplete the existing food supply and move further south in search of additional feeding areas.

Under the accelerated Canada goose research program the game management division of the Commission captured over four hundred birds for banding, marking, identification and release. In addition some of the captured birds were moved to the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge and released. This move is to determine if these same birds will return to Florida next fall or if they will stop off in Ala-



bama. Captured geese from the Wheeler refuge have been moved to Florida and confined by wing clipping. Some of these birds will be allowed to leave Florida after the wing feathers are replaced in summer and others will be restrained until fall or winter.

From all indications it is extremely difficult if not impossible to establish a Canada goose population in a new southern area. On the other hand it is relatively easy to establish flocks in northern areas. Efforts on the part of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a Canada goose population in Northwest Florida's Lake Seminole area in Jackson County and on the Chassahowitzka and Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuges in the central and southern portions proved unsuccessful.

The research project is not designed to establish a new goose wintering area but rather to expand the existing population of the present area in northwest Florida's Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor and Franklin counties.

It will be most difficult to entice the birds back to Florida. Additional food, rest fields and water areas will apparently not do the trick as there are more than enough of these basic requirements at the present time as well as the extensive protected area of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

Since food and water alone will not entice the geese back to Florida the leadership objective of the research project will receive major considera-

tion to determine if certain flock leaders may attract other geese to follow. Selected leaders of flocks will be captured and transported to some of the northern areas with the hope that these leaders might lure other geese to follow them to Florida.

Other studies involve transplanting geese to Florida from northern concentrations to determine if transplanted geese become enticed to winter in Florida in subsequent years. Offspring from these transplanted individuals may help increase Florida's population. Juvenile geese will be captured on northern grounds, banded, and released in Florida to encourage their return along with offspring in future years.

An important part of the goose restoration program will be to encourage plantation owners, farmers and timber firms to establish goose refuges on their property by providing ample protection, planted foods and lakes for water and resting. Cooperation with St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and all personnel of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will be maintained throughout the program to promote additional goose management development in Florida.

When opening day of the 1966-67 goose hunting season arrives the hunter waiting in the blind for the sound of distant honking may be assured that the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is also waiting for a similar sound, and proof that operation "return the goose" is paying dividends. ●

These geese, in recovery pen, show various stages of recovery from the effects of the drug. After complete recovery, they fly from the pen and resume their normal life in the wild, with no drug effects.

Photo By Jim Floyd





Bonefish generally like warm weather. The author, right, and Keys guide Stu Apte, gloat over big one caught near Big Pine.

No matter what the weather conditions are or the time of the year, someone is always catching fish in Florida



# GO FISHING ANYWAY

By CHARLES WATERMAN

**D**ESPITE SOME POPULAR opinions, it rains, blows, turns cold and gets hot in Florida. When these things are going on it would be nice to stay home and go fishing only when conditions are ideal but not many of us can manage it that way.

Some friends of mine were in an airplane somewhere over Kentucky and headed this way on a cold January 2 when they learned from a fellow across the aisle that they were wasting their fare.

"Snook fishing in Florida?" he asked sympathetically. "Why the snook aren't running at this time of year." And my friends, first time visitors to Florida, met me at the Miami airport with long and unhappy faces. It took me an hour and two cups of coffee to explain you can catch snook the year around in the mangrove Everglades country and that the "run" of snook which occurs on some parts

of the coast at well-established times is something else again.

It is almost a thousand miles from Pensacola to Key West. A lot of fishy things happen in that distance and mighty few fishermen know all about the whole works. I know northern bass fishermen who make special arrangements to be on hand for the "best" bass fishing. Among the months they choose as "best" are October, January, February, March, April, May, June and September. For the information of those who haven't tried them, the other months can be good too—somewhere in Florida.

If you want to catch fish the year around you'd better be "loose" and don't get hooked on one moon phase or one fishing method. Successful fishermen are opportunists who know the fish are somewhere and that they get hungry, even if the weather is bad and it's the wrong time of year.



Hot weather bass are always good for discussion. When the water gets warm the bass get sluggish and most fishermen hunt air conditioners but if that's the time your fishing trip is scheduled, be brave. All is not lost.

Overheated bass prefer slow moving food and bait fishermen say the shiners should be smaller. Apparently a lukewarm bass doesn't want to chase and whip a big meal so users of artificials might keep their lures down to moderate size and move them slowly.

Of course a bass will hunt cool water and spring fed areas will collect them. Deep water is cooler than shallow water during the sunny summer day. Shallow water is cooler than deep water (generally) at night and early in the morning. These facts have given rise to overemphasized rules about fishing but bass sometimes go to the warm shallows in midday, especially if they can find a little shade. The jigger bobbbers (guys with cane poles, short lines and big lures) hold forth at night.

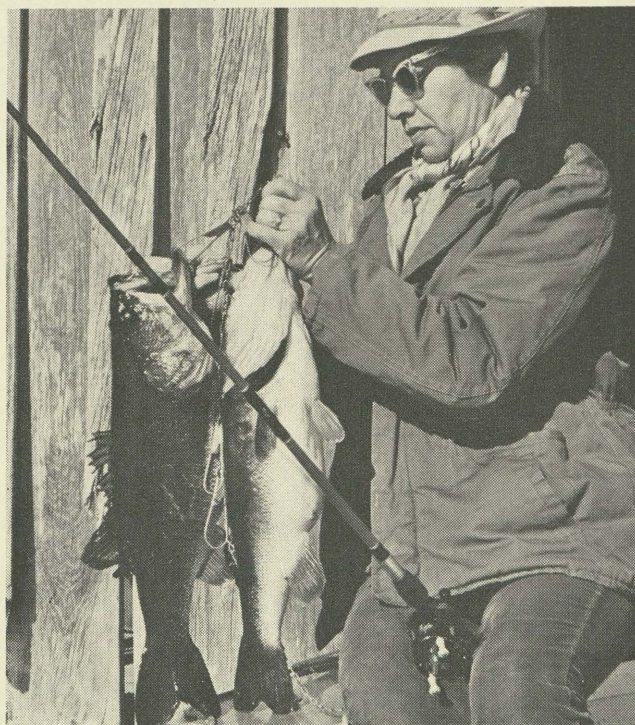
All-night fishing is most popular during warm months. Early in the evening, fish are likely to be at the edge of shallow flats near deeper water.

Panfish don't seem to be as cranky about their feeding habits as black bass although bluegills can sometimes be hard to figure. Anyway, midsummer may not be quite as good as height of the spring spawning but I've done most of my Florida panfishing in hot weather. Panfish, especially bluegills, turn

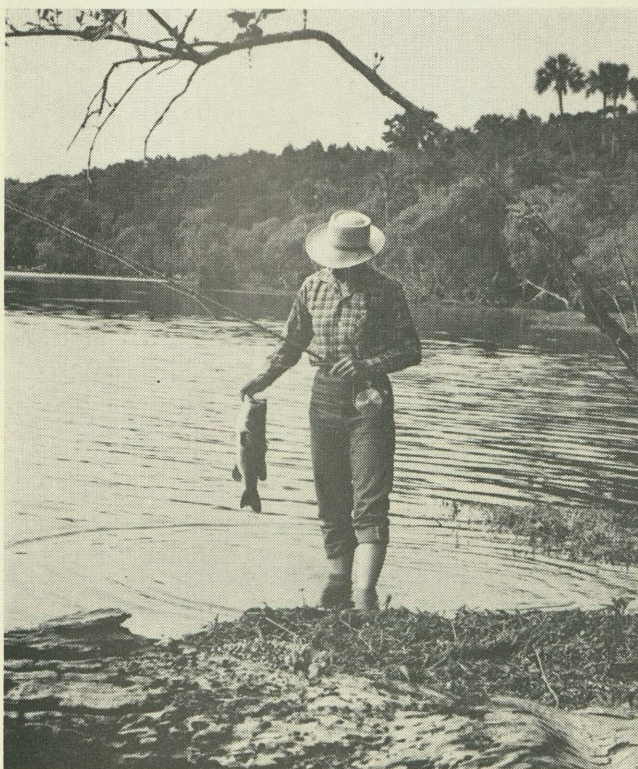
on all at once in late evening and their plopping around bonnets or water hyacinths starts along about sundown. During the hot days they'll take deep artificials or natural baits, even when they don't show much on top.

I never did much with little jigs on bluegills and I believe tiny spinners (the Mepps is a popular one) with small hair flies are hard to beat for midday hot weather fishing. Miniature plugs will catch bream all right but I'll take the spinners.

Okay, so the bass won't strike, you're tired of panfish and you still have a week of vacation. Hot weather is good for weakfish (salt water trout) if you'll wade or drift flats in early morning or late evening. Snook fishing is generally pretty good and tarpon like it warm. Bonefishing is good in warm weather. I mention these particular salt water specimens because they're especially good substitutes for  
*(Continued on next page)*



When it's warm enough to wade, left, without boots and the wind is calm, it's time to catch bass on surface lures. It was "too cold to fish," above, the day these 5-pounders were caught. Water temperature was in the fifties, where bass are supposed to be nearly dormant.





(Continued from preceding page)

bass, being caught on the same tackle with very minor changes in technique.

When it's hot, cloudy weather is a good time to be out. Running water has more oxygen in it than still water so hot weather fish often prefer current.

Many fishermen louse up a summer's day by going early and then staying out during the poor fishing time only to find they're too fagged to last through the late evening. Happens all the time at fishing resorts.

Take cold weather, another cause of poor fishing. Again the bass get sluggish and are often caught deep where the water is now warmer than on the surface. Air temperatures ain't water temperatures.

Even though we might have a real orange popper in midwinter, it takes a little while for a sudden cold snap to really chill the depths and you can shiver through some good bass fishing before the cold really sets in. When the cold gets to him, a bass generally stops eating but a chill that will turn him off today might find him in a different mood a week from now once he gets used to cold water. All of this goes for panfish too and even for salt water species. Sometimes there's a feeding binge just before the cold snap hits.

I don't know just how cold water can get before it definitely knocks off all bass feeding. I've seen them strike in mid-Florida when the water temperatures were in the forties but that's a very rare thing and most authorities assume a Florida bass hibernates then. In the North, largemouth bass will strike when there's ice around the edges but then they've had a different fetching up even though about the same fish as the Florida bigmouth.

When it gets cold, head for the springs again. I went over to Crystal River on the West Coast last winter during a cold snap. Crystal River begins in a cluster of springs and we found some bass. The water was warmer than in most lakes and as we slipped along a sawgrass shore we found the bass hard on wrists, willing to jump and explosive in the striking department. They hit flyrod popping bugs.

I like to bore my friends with the story about Dan Bailey, the Montana fly builder who came down here to go snook and tarpon fishing with us. He arrived at Everglades on the coldest morning they ever had as far as I know. There was ice all over the dock and it stayed cold for several days.

For some reason the small tarpon which usually squat grumpily in the mud when it gets cold were on their best behavior and slammed Dan's flies with an abandon that had him choking on his pipe. The snook, usually indisposed when it gets just a little chilly, were peering hungrily out of the mangrove

roots and ready for anything, especially plugs and streamer flies.

Now I *did* confine our operations to some of the deeper holes in some of the deeper creeks. Other than that I take no credit for the good fishing which was a surprise to me. The water temperatures were in the very low fifties most of the time. Dan and his wife, Helen, went home convinced that I was the world's greatest guide.

You might as well try it, anyway, no matter how dark things look and a few hours of driving may take you to a spot where the fish haven't learned fishing is poor.

Late winter is the most popular time for crappie (speckled perch) and many Central and South Florida fishermen discontinue their bass fishing and seek the specks when it gets chilly. But cold weather has an effect on specks too, even though they can be caught when the bass are off their feed. As water gets cold, crappie move toward deeper water, some-



DeLand fisherman Wimpy Steerman is preparing to fill a dishpan with crappie (speckled perch) on a chilly winter day and already has a good start.





Debie Waterman shows a nice snook to Dan Bailey, of Montana. That morning it was the "coldest on record" at Everglades.

times only a few feet from where they operated during warmer days. Shoreline fishermen who have been hooking big specks on tiny lures and spinners at the very edge and then miss them in chilly weather should bounce the bottom a few yards out. I believe crappie are our most reliable cold weather game fish.

Rain is another fisherman chaser but the barometric shuffles that accompany inclement weather can sometimes turn fish on instead of off. Unless the rain is so heavy you're physically uncomfortable, I wouldn't let it deter me. Some of my best fishing has been between showers but only occasionally have I done any good in the midst of a downpour. Ted Smallwood, the Everglades guide, tells me he's had good fishing during a thunderstorm but I never have, generally preferring the bank to an open boat then anyway. I've seen several examples of fish turning off as soon as it thundered.

Miserable, rainy weather sometimes brings run-ins that attract bass to mouths of tiny, wet weather creeks. The upper end of the St. Johns River where the actual stream course is pretty vague is famous for schooling bass during quick spring runoffs. Inquiries around Sanford might get you some fishing in the Puzzle Lake region, for example.

Really high water is a genuine, legitimate bugaboo. On rivers the overflow gets clear back away from the shoreline, "into the swamp" as Floridians say, and bass scatter like pigs in a pea patch. Just try and find them!

Your best bet then is to hunt a body of water with well-defined borders where you can at least locate the "bank." Lakes are less affected than rivers. Regulated canals are a good bet as their level is reasonably constant. And everywhere you go, look for run-ins—even a trickle may attract customers. When in doubt on short rivers or creeks, work upstream. High water is a nuisance but don't go home.

Comes now the real drought (even in Florida). The small creeks and canals are very low, oxygen is scarce and fish are driven into the few remaining pockets where they may be ready to strike anything that moves. Long drought can cause overcrowding and stunting but a rapid lowering of water after years of plentiful rain brought me the best fresh water fishing I've ever had in South Florida. Bass, bluegills and warmouth came out of the sawgrass into the canals and river heads and the salt water fish moved up to intercept the gravy train from the swamps. A plug or fly might be fought over by a whole squadron of bass and they, in turn, might be scattered by a snook or tarpon. I like to dream about it but, alas, it is no more. Low water has killed those bass or driven them into the salt. Such bonanzas of fishing are seldom in the guidebooks. They come and go and only the angler who wanders and experiments cashes in.

With high winds, fishermen stay home or seek a lee shore. I'd rather not operate in a near gale but the fish aren't always in calm places.

*(Continued on next page)*

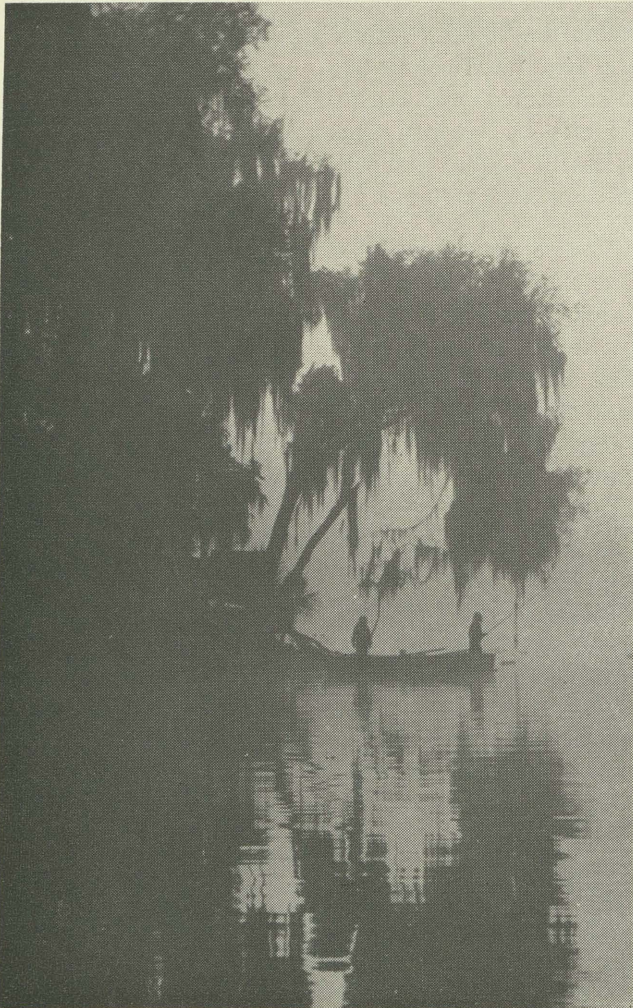


*(Continued from preceding page)*

On Lake Okeechobee, my wife Debie and I motored disconsolately across coffee-colored water through waves that banged the aluminum boat and soaked everything aboard. If we'd been nearer home we'd never have fished but here we were with the motel room paid for, the boat launched and a long day ahead of us. We'd lift on one of the swells, then drop into the grass and the motor would clog up. I'd get the junk out of the prop and be all set for another 200 yards, muttering about what the sane people were doing that day and pulling my hat down so tight I got a headache.

We bobbed through a line of reeds which broke the waves somewhat, spluttered across a turbulent flat of peppergrass and miraculously found that half a mile of vegetation had separated us from the mud. The wind still whistled but I could see a hard sand bottom three feet down and Debie managed to launch a Weed Wing spoon with a porkrind. In honesty I must say that the spoon made several un-

It's a foggy dawn but that's when the fish had been hitting so that's when these anglers were on the job.



It was chilly weather when these bass were caught in the St. Johns River. They were taken on plugs.

eventful trips but suddenly the grass shook, the water bulged, a broad tail threw a quart of water and Debie had more bass than she knew what to do with. He made it into thick grass and we lost the battle after fruitless prodding with a long-handled net. We didn't load the boat but we had a wonderful time all day, shouting back and forth in the wind and losing several good ones. We boated some too.

The moral is that brief windstorms seldom roil an entire lake. Almost invariably there are clear areas protected by vegetation. Now a week of 40 mile winds is different and you should seek smaller water.

Not only are small, sheltered coves easier to fish in high winds but fish may actually concentrate there to stay out of the wind and the downwind side of water shrubbery often collects bait and consequently bass or panfish. Same goes for snook and Rocky Weinstein of the Everglades country used to make a career of fishing the downwind side of mangrove bushes for snook, the higher the wind the better.



Fifteen years ago when I first came to Florida I spent a night in a Sanford hotel and walked over to the dock at Lake Monroe about 9 p.m. There was a guy with a little, short, cane pole and a No Alibi jig heaving on bass that wouldn't quit. He had a string of nice fish and was breaking off the big ones. His system was to simply walk slowly along the dock gently moving his pole tip with the jig about five feet down.

I suffered a severe attack of fish fever but had no tackle with me. When calm reason began to assert itself I finally realized the fish weren't always lined up against that dock but that this orgy was occasioned by a very hard wind that had battered schools of bait against the pilings. Dead and injured minnows were all around the place. I don't know whether the guy with the jig had figured it out or had just lucked into the jackpot. I like to think I was the one who understood the situation and that he was just lucky. But he had the fish.

When there's been some high wind—better check the seacoasts too. Sometimes there's good fishing right after a storm but, of course, the whole beach may be a mud pie.

Too much boat traffic, a chronic illness of many of our waterways, can alter your operation. Water that's actually stirred by boat wakes becomes unpopular among the more astute bass and panfish as well as brackish water fish (with the possible exception of shad who don't seem to give a darn). On rivers with a lily bonnet line out from shore, fish are likely to lie behind the bonnets even when water skiers are churning the main stream. That area is apt to be relatively calm but when a few yachts plow through pulling real task force wakes the shore fishing is generally done for and you may as well hunt a quiet backwater or little creek. Many of my friends refuse to fish on weekends, claiming that the "jolly boys" (local term for high-speed pleasure boaters) ruin the whole thing. Well, they're right where main river channels are concerned but it's usually only a few yards to protected water. Unfortunately, fish sometimes prefer the deepest bottoms to those fishy little side channels.

Although some of the fish camp operators may hold public burnings of this issue, I'm afraid the one-spot reservation for a Florida fishing vacation is something of a gamble. Fishing only one part of Florida can be pretty dreary when local weather conditions foul up. Sometimes a tourist who goes home disappointed could have cashed in if he'd driven just a little further and accepted just a slightly different kind of fishing.

One-spot fishing leads to flat statements such as, "Fishing is better in Illinois than it is in Florida. We just come here for the weather."

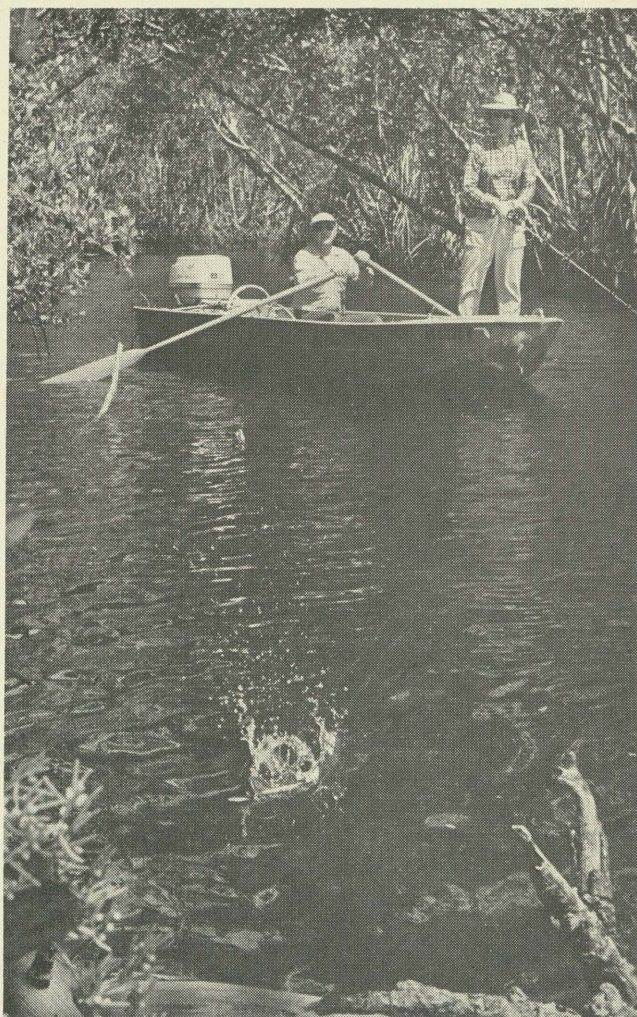
Unusual weather or water conditions sure ruin things for the narrow minded soul who has fixed ideas of what fishing (and everything else) should be like.

After 50 years of intensive coverage of the Florida fishing scene by thousands of writers, there are still many anglers who say you can't catch Florida bass on anything but shiners. There are many Florida fishermen who think all salt water fishing involves dragline-type tackle.

Such pilgrims are easily discouraged by a bit of poor weather and sob their disappointment on the way North or back to their retirement homes.

Best examples of fishermen who meet adversity are the working anglers who get off only a day or two a week, go whether it rains or shines, whether it freezes or broils and "catch fish right on" as the saying goes.

Somebody somewhere in Florida is catching a fish right now and I don't care what the weather or what the time of year. ●



When the wind is blowing out in the Gulf you can go back into the mangrove creeks for brackish water fishing. These fishermen are plug casting.



# MUZZLE FLASHES



There are still problems but stainless steel could  
some day be the accepted material for gun making

By EDMUND McLAURIN

**B**ACK IN THE EARLY Thirties, an enterprising, well-to-do sportsman friend had the Ford Motor people custom-build him the equivalent of a modern Land-Rover, from stainless steel. He still has and uses the vehicle; stainless steel of good grade has long life.

If there is a moral to the story it is to make or buy sports' equipment of stainless steel if you want it to last indefinitely. The better grades have remarkable resistance to corrosion and erosion.

Why not firearms, or at least barrels and receivers, of stainless steel? Many shooters have advanced that suggestion and hope to me. Most want to be free of the fear of rust damage to a temporarily forgotten, or stored, firearm. Others say they'd like to get maximum service life from a rifle barrel of known accuracy. Their expressed wishes make sense.

White-hot powder gases, developing many thousands of pounds maximum pressure, can reduce the life of even the best cared-for barrel, by burning away barrel metal, especially at throat. Wear is greatest just at contact point of bullet and throat. There is also metal erosion the first inch or two forward. (In time, this condition can be seen with the eye when a just cleaned barrel is held against a strong light and examined.)

Some powders are more erosive than others. The mixture contained in war surplus .30-06 caliber tracer ammunition, for example, can really shorten barrel life!

Barrel length and rifling twist, as related to bullet velocity, are two other factors affecting barrel life and accuracy.

The poorer the bullet fit the greater the gas flow around and ahead of the bullet; existing hot gas is simply made more harmful thereby. This hot gas leakage around a poorly fitting bullet is a primary reason for short barrel life and accuracy. Only by careful handloading ammunition with bullets of true bore fit can the erosion be kept to minimum.

The "hot" center fires—especially the high velocities and the Magnum calibers—are especially hard on rifle barrels.

The idea of using stainless steel for firearms has merit, but it is not new. Certain grades of stainless steel were experimentally used by European barrel

makers more than forty years ago. Subsequently a few American manufacturers produced firearms with stainless steel barrels, and there are also some current offerings.

Back about 1958, the Marlin Firearms Company, an old American gun maker, marketed the since discontinued Marlin Model 455 bolt-action big game rifle with stainless steel barrel 24 inches long, rifled with shooter's choice of .270 Winchester, .308 Winchester or .30-06 Springfield caliber.

The stainless steel barrel was fitted to an FN-Mausser type action with an adjustable Sako trigger. Marlin gave the stainless steel barrel of the Model 455 a beautiful blue finish—by first copper-plating the barrel's exterior and then bluing the copper coat.

With its fine Lyman 48 receiver sight and ramp style front sight, the Marlin Model 455 rifle was a good one, but it lost out by being a manually operated bolt-action on the market at the time of a growing public craze for autoloaders.

In the same calendar period, Winchester marketed the original Model 70 bolt-action in .243 Winchester and .30-06 Springfield calibers, with optional choice of stainless steel barrel. The Model 70 in .220 Swift caliber was another stainless steel barrel offering.

Today, there are numerous sporting firearms on both the European and American markets that feature stainless steel as a basic material.

Remington, Winchester and others recognize and attempt to minimize the barrel erosion problem in "hot" calibers by using stainless steel barrels.

The Remington Model 700BDL in 7mm Remington Magnum, .264 Winchester Magnum and .300 Winchester Magnum calibers have stainless steel barrels. The Remington Model 700C, as represented by the 7mm Remington Magnum and .264 Winchester Magnum calibers, also incorporates a stainless steel barrel. The Savage Model 110 bolt-action, available with either right or left hand bolt, in 7mm Magnum caliber, is also of stainless steel.

The firm of Smith & Wesson (recently purchased by Bangor Punta Sugar Corporation, an investment holding company of Bangor, Maine) has just started marketing its Model 60 "Chief's Special" .38 caliber revolver with every part—barrel, frame,





The late Col. Townsend Whelen did considerable technical testing, including the performance of experimental steel barrels. His authoritative writings are missed by shooters and contemporary gun editors alike.

cylinder, screws and springs—made from stainless steel. The only components not stainless steel are the two handle grip halves, which are walnut.

Some firearms makers now chrome softer steel barrel interiors, to give rifled bore or shotgun tube the wear resistance of stainless steel. But the deposited chrome film must be uniform in thickness and final smoothness, and permanent in bonding quality. Not all firms can do a good job. The Italian makers of the Franchi line of shotguns, and the Marker Machine Company, Charleston, Illinois, are two firms that seem to have mastered the process.

Gunsmith O. P. Ackley, 2235 Arbor Lane, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Snapp's Gun Shop, Royal Oak, Michigan, undertake relining reamed-out barrels with stainless steel liners rifled to popular calibers.

Relining should not be confused with chrome-plating; the two methods are separate, quite different gunsmithing procedures.

It is the substantial presence of chromium and nickel alloys in stainless steel that makes the metal difficult and expensive to machine, and especially so in the manufacture of firearms.

Accuracy in a rifle requires almost perfect drill-

ing and rifling of a barrel blank and final straightening. If not perfectly done, these manufacturing steps must at least be *uniformly* done. This uniformity is hard to achieve when the working material is hard, high grade stainless steel. Easier to machine are high grade chrome-moly steels, possessing a chemical content of carbon, manganese, chromium and molybdenum. "CM" grade steel is an example. It is well known to custom barrel makers.

Some of the Timken-produced steels are actually equal or superior to stainless steel as rifle barrel material. One particularly, the manufacturer's "Graph-Mo" tool steel, has proven unusually tough and long wearing, yet not discouraging to machine. (A very hard steel, "Graph-Mo" has a chemical analysis that includes considerable graphite as well as rich alloys of chromium and nickel.)

The various alloys comprising steel have to be evenly distributed throughout the metal for it to be machined uniformly. There should not be any "soft" or "hard" spots as a steel barrel blank is machined and/or heat-treated for qualities of hardness of desired Rockwell designation, strength and wear resistance.

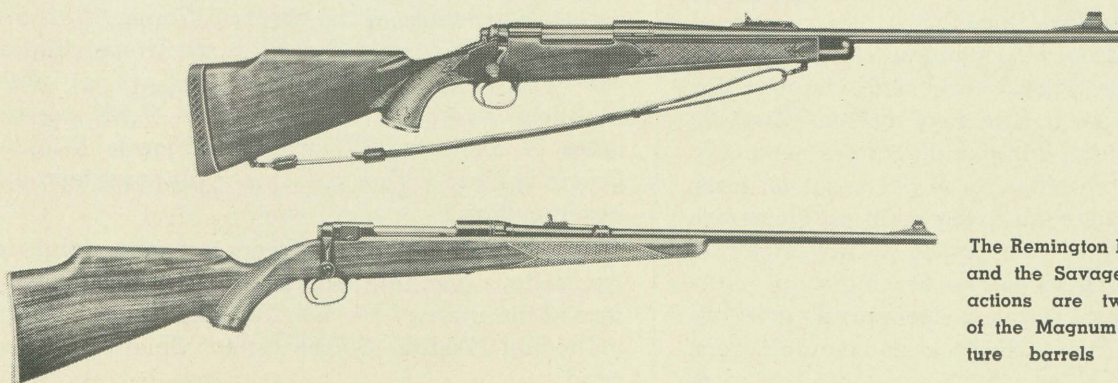
In stainless steels, especially the more common "18-8" (18% chrome, 8% nickel) varieties, alloy distribution within the metal is frequently uneven. Applied drills are apt to run off-course when encountering discrepancies, and barrels may have soft spots that can make them very difficult to give final, necessary straightening.

Consequently, in manufacturing stainless steel barrels there are unavoidable discards, with resultant high labor cost for those barrels that are eventually finished and acceptable for firearms assembly. This is why stainless steel barrels, where available, generally cost more.

The average shooter knows very little about barrel characteristics and barrel and receiver assembly as related to accuracy, and how to properly test and evaluate a barrel for its true accuracy. But bench rest shooters do.

Their shooting is a constant challenge of matching and perfecting shooting equipment to the point

(Continued on next page)



The Remington Model 700BDL, above, and the Savage Model 110MC bolt-actions are two big game rifles of the Magnum class that now feature barrels of stainless steel.



(Continued from preceding page)

where it delivers peak performance. They strive for the utmost in rifle precision, the realized dream of putting every one of a string of five or ten shots in the hole made by the first fired bullet.

Contrary to popular belief, firing a rifle from bench rest does not add to the true accuracy of the rifle used. The method merely enables the shooter to determine if a particular combination of rifle and ammunition is accurate.

In the opinion of serious bench rest shooters, rifles that will not group ten consecutive shots in an area as small as a dime at 200 measured yards aren't excitingly accurate!

Of record are ten shot clusters as small as .388 and .402 of an inch, respectively, calibrated from the centers of the two widest spaced shots in each group. At 100 yards, five shot groups as small as .062 of an inch have been recorded, and as small as .196 of an inch for ten shots. This is match winning accuracy, in a highly competitive field of activity.

Seldom will a factory production barrel deliver such accuracy. To obtain the best accuracy possible, most bench rest shooters have custom barrel-makers, like G. R. Douglas, Clyde Hart and Sam May turn out rifled tubes for Remington Model 722, Mauser, Springfield and Enfield bolt-actions, and occasionally for a Sako or Winchester Model 70 action. Many of these custom barrels are of finest obtainable grade stainless steel.

Where a stainless steel barrel is used—like one of the more common chrome-molybdenum barrels—best accuracy is invariably obtained only after enough shots have been fired through it to give the bore and rifling what is known as "bullet polishing".

The late Colonel Townsend Whelen, long considered America's foremost authority on sporting firearms, did a lot of experimenting with different types of rifle barrel steels. He never waxed enthusiastic about stainless steel as a barrel material, simply because of the metal's inherent unreliable composition characteristics, although pointing out that a *top quality* stainless steel barrel gives remarkably long life to a high power rifle. His last known report was published in 1954. There have been many new developments in steel making and rifle barrel manufacture since then.

There is no reason why stainless steel could not ultimately be the logical, accepted material for gun making, as I see it. The steel makers—Timken, for example—and the gun manufacturers need only to combine research effort on as yet unsolved technical problems. Right now, the main problems are lack of uniformity of composition as raw material, and the painstaking labor and accompanying costs necessary to produce stainless steel barrels to standards observed by reputable firearms manufacturers.

# Florida

**Central Florida Region:** J. W. Bickerstaff, Manager  
**Office:** 2520 East Silver Springs Blvd.  
Ocala, Florida  
**Telephone:** 629-2802 and 629-4900

## Area #9—Citrus, North Lake and South Marion Counties

Doyle Tindale, Area Supervisor ..... Ocala, Marion

Officer	City and County
Vernon Perryman .....	Crystal River, Citrus
Gary Phelps .....	Inverness, Citrus
Grady Phelps .....	Altoona, Marion
Kenneth Pickles .....	Mount Dora, Lake
Vanness Seckinger .....	Ocala, Marion

## Area #10—South Lake, Orange, Osceola and Sumter Counties

Roscoe Hamilton, Area Supervisor ..... Bushnell, Sumter

Officer	City and County
Remer Albritton .....	St. Cloud, Osceola
Thomas E. Croft .....	Apopka, Orange
William DuPree .....	Orlando, Orange
James A. Moore .....	Clermont, Lake
Earli Sullivan .....	Loughman, Osceola
J. B. Wigglesworth .....	Wildwood, Sumter
Ervin Young .....	Bushnell, Sumter

## Area #11—North Marion, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

C. E. Hall, Area Supervisor ..... Citra, Marion

Officer	City and County
J. W. Arnold .....	Hastings, St. Johns
Harry Koon .....	Silver Springs, Marion
E. W. Pappy .....	Bayard, St. Johns
Robert Phillips .....	Interlachen, Putnam
Robert Logan .....	Crescent City, Putnam
Thompson Shearer .....	East Palatka, Putnam
John Gill .....	Salt Springs, Marion

## Area #12—Brevard, Flagler, Seminole and Volusia Counties

E. G. Pierce, Area Supervisor ..... DeLand, Volusia

Officer	City and County
J. L. Brannam .....	Cocoa, Brevard
Kenneth Bucher .....	Astor, Lake
Charles Clark .....	Oak Hill, Volusia
H. W. Holdridge, Jr. ....	Bunnell, Flagler
Alton Clifton .....	DeLand, Volusia
Robert Johnson .....	Lake Mary, Seminole
Glen N. Overstreet .....	Mims, Brevard
Jan Spangler .....	Bunnell, Flagler

Florida's Wildlife Officers have the tremendous task of enforcing the game and fish laws applying to approximately 39,000,000 acres of land and water within the confines of the State of Florida. With the second largest woodland area in the United States, and with over 30,000 named fresh-water lakes, countless rivers and streams, and 58,560 square miles of territory to patrol, the Florida Wildlife Officer is faced with a task that is all-important and never ending.

Our Florida Wildlife Officers are engaged in a tremendous task that is most important to the welfare of the State of Florida. The importance of each individual Wildlife Officer cannot be over-emphasized.



# Wildlife Officer Directory

**South Florida Region:** J. O. Brown, Manager  
**Office:** 2202 Lakeland Hills Blvd.  
 Lakeland, Florida  
**Telephone:** MU 6-8157

**The Everglades Region:** Louis F. Gainey, Manager  
**Office:** 551 North Military Trail  
 West Palm Beach, Florida  
**Telephone:** 683-0748

## Area #13—Pinellas, Hillsborough and Manatee Counties

Roscoe Godwin, Area Supervisor .....	Lutz, Hillsboro
<b>Officer</b>	<b>City and County</b>
Alvin Conerly .....	Tampa, Hillsboro
Dick Bryant .....	St. Petersburg, Pinellas
W. C. Myrick .....	Tampa, Hillsborough
Fred Wheeler .....	Plant City, Hillsborough
J. Lewis Carpenter .....	Crystal Beach, Pinellas
S. A. Rogers .....	Palmetto, Manatee

## Area #14—Sarasota, Desoto, Charlotte and Lee Counties

J. B. Jordan, Area Supervisor .....	Punta Gorda, Charlotte
<b>Officer</b>	<b>City and County</b>
Carlos Reynolds .....	Arcadia, Desoto
Jimmy Willingham .....	Punta Gorda, Charlotte
Paul F. Blanchard .....	Arcadia, Desoto
R. F. Hitch .....	Port Charlotte, Charlotte
C. W. Daniels .....	Alva, Lee
W. C. Jackman .....	Alva, Lee

## Area #15—Hardee, Highlands and Glades Counties

Ralph Johns, Area Supervisor .....	Wauchula, Hardee
<b>Officer</b>	<b>City and County</b>
Edward Crews .....	Wauchula, Hardee
Marvin Albritton .....	Lake Placid, Highlands
Charlie Snelgrove .....	Avon Park, Highlands
Doyle Johns .....	Palmdale, Glades
Jack A. Carlton .....	Moore Haven, Glades
Fred Patterson .....	Moore Haven, Glades

## Area #17—Polk, Hernando and Pasco Counties

Larry Lawrence, Area Supervisor .....	Lakeland, Polk
<b>Officer</b>	<b>City and County</b>
James L. Adams .....	Brooksville, Hernando
Ronald Davis .....	Brooksville, Hernando
Richard Long .....	Dade City, Pasco
W. J. Heidgerd .....	Lakeland, Polk
J. W. Crum .....	Lake Wales, Polk

## Area #18—Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Martin and Palm Beach Counties

Elliott Lott, Area Supervisor .....	Okeechobee
<b>Officer</b>	<b>City and County</b>
Gwynn Kelley .....	Vero Beach, Indian River
Engram Hazellief .....	Fort Pierce, St. Lucie
Dewitt Staats .....	Okeechobee, Okeechobee
Douglas Penn .....	Stuart, Martin
John Roberts .....	Indiantown, Martin
Jim Cook .....	W. Palm Beach, Palm Beach
J. K. Davis .....	South Bay, Palm Beach

## Area #19—Broward and Dade Counties

W. T. Shirley, Area Supervisor .....	Opa Locka, Dade
<b>Officer</b>	<b>City and County</b>
Jimmy Sistrunk .....	Ft. Lauderdale, Broward
Tom Morris .....	Coral Springs, Broward
Jimmy Thompson .....	Ft. Lauderdale, Broward
Windel Clemons .....	Miami, Dade
George Eddie .....	Ft. Lauderdale, Broward
John Mapel .....	Ft. Lauderdale, Broward
John G. Powell .....	Miami, Dade
Robert Marquis .....	Homestead, Dade

## Area #20—Hendry, Collier and Monroe Counties

Douglas Thompson, Area Supervisor .....	Copeland, Collier
<b>Officer</b>	<b>City and County</b>
Herbert Hisler .....	LaBelle, Hendry
Larry Buckles .....	Immokalee, Collier
Dale Bennett .....	Clewiston, Hendry
Martin Foxworthy .....	Immokalee, Collier
Douglas Lamb .....	Naples, Collier
Bob Asbel .....	Copeland, Collier
Waydon Durrance .....	Copeland, Collier
Tommy Herne .....	Copeland, Collier
Charles J. Hansen .....	Naples, Collier

**Wildlife Officer Directory for the Northwest and Northeast Regions appeared last month, in the April 1966 issue**

## Florida Wildlife Officer Law Enforcement Report

### Statewide Report of Arrests for February and March 1966

	Feb.	March
<b>Hunting Violations</b>		
License or Management Area Permit .....	27	15
Night Hunting, gun and light .....	18	21
Illegal Deer or Turkey Hunting .....	3	7
Illegal Quail or Squirrel Hunting .....	2	4
Alligator Hunting or Possession of Hides .....	0	7
Migratory Bird or Waterfowl .....	9	4
Other (guns in refuges, unplugged guns, etc.) .....	42	31
<b>Fishing Violations</b>		
Fishing License .....	159	202
Illegal Transportation, Fresh Water Fish .....	0	3
Illegal Taking of Fresh Water Fish .....	7	25
Over the Bag Limit .....	3	10
<b>Boating Safety Violations</b>		
Equipment .....	58	70
Registration .....	15	6
Operation .....	11	12
<b>Total Arrests</b> .....	<b>354</b>	<b>417</b>



## CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

tionists, the booklet reviews the origin of the Duck Stamp, reports on investment of money resulting from the sale of various stamps, and explains how a new stamp is selected each year.

Of particular interest to collectors is mention in the booklet that early issues (1934-1941) of these stamps are exceedingly rare.

Stamp clubs and individuals will be given a 25 percent discount on the purchase of 100 or more copies going to one address.

The \$3 Duck Stamp is required of all persons 16 years of age and older when hunting migratory waterfowl. It originated with passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act in 1934. The first stamps were sold August 14, 1934.

Money from the stamp sales has been used to acquire, develop, and manage national refuges for migratory waterfowl and for related wildlife management work. Since 1960, the funds have been used exclusively for acquiring land for waterfowl.

### Cruising The U.S.A.

HOW MANY LOCKS are there in the Champlain Canal? Where is the Suwannee River? How long is it? Is it navigable for small boats?

The answers to these and literally thousands of other questions can be found in a compact new guide to America's favorite cruising waters just published by the Kiekhaefer Corporation of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Entitled "Cruising the U.S.A.," the handsome two-color booklet is divided into seven geographic sections: the Northeast, the Middle Atlantic, Florida and the Gulf Coast, New York-Quebec-Ontario, the Great Lakes, the Western Rivers and the West Coast.

Each section contains general maps of the areas covered and

lively and concise descriptions of the scenic, historical and recreational highlights of each. Suggested reference books for boaters who want more detailed information on a locality are given, along with sources for charts and short synopses of weather characteristics.

The 85-page booklet was written by Norris D. Hoyt, Don G. Cullimore, H. Clay Stier, Arthur N. Thomson and Kenneth J. Pelton, under the direction of Morris Weeks Jr., editor of *The Complete Boating Encyclopedia*.

The Champlain Canal, incidentally, has 11 locks. The fabled Suwannee river flows south from its source in Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp to the Gulf of Mexico. It is navigable 139 miles upstream to Ellaville, Fla., and is a favorite of outboard cruisers.

Free copies of the booklet can be obtained from any Mercury outboard dealer, or by writing the Kiekhaefer Corporation, Fond du Lac, Wis.

### Food For Freedom

SECRETARY OF THE Interior Stewart L. Udall recently released two statements from the National Academy of Sciences describing as "safe, nutritious and wholesome," a new and inexpensive purified marine protein concentrate made from fish by Interior researchers.

The product could be used to correct nutritional deficiencies common to the billions who comprise two-thirds of the world's population.

The product was referred to by President Johnson in his February 10 "Food for Freedom" message to Congress. The President, speaking of the need for inexpensive high quality dietary supplements, said:

---

In spite of its armor, the armadillo is a good swimmer but if the waterway is short, it walks under the water on the bottom.

"A promising start has already been made in isolating protein sources from fish, which are in plentiful supply throughout the world."

The marine protein product can be made as a powder, a paste, or a liquid. The specific product involved in the report is a no-taste, no-odor powder containing 80 percent high-quality animal protein. The remainder is largely calcium, phosphorus, and other nutritionally important minerals.

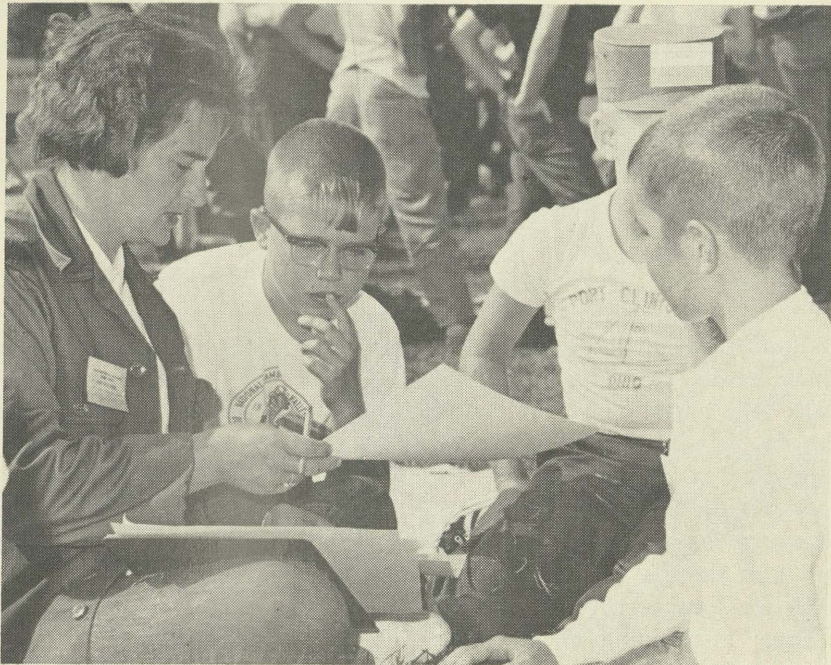
The process, developed by scientists and engineers of Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, converts an edible schooling fish (hake) into the highly concentrated protein powder.

Eminent scientists, appointed by the National Academy of Sciences at the request of Secretary Udall, served as advisors on the project. After full evaluation of the process, the advisors said the tasteless and odorless powder developed from whole fish was "wholesome and safe for human consumption, highly nutritious, and blends well as an additive to many types of food."

### Instructor Training

HAVE YOU A youngster in your home, your neighborhood, your club who would benefit from the best rifle training available? Have you ever thought you'd like to be a qualified rifle instructor so you could teach youngsters to shoot? Have you ever thought it wise to teach marksmanship to the young hunter before he goes into the field? Have you ever dreamed of a shooting vacation that was inexpensive enough so you could take the family? The answer to all these questions is the NRA Instructor-Junior School held each summer during the National Rifle and Pistol Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. Instructor training for adults and basic training for youngsters are combined in the largest course of its kind in the USA. Approximately 1,000 young-





Instructor training for adults and basic training for youngsters are combined into the largest gun handling-hunter safety schools, to be held at Camp Perry by the National Rifle Association, August 1966.

sters and 150 adults who wish to become instructors, or who are taking this as a refresher, annually take this course.

Housing in camp for the duration of the school costs \$3.00 per person and meals in the competitors cafeteria cost approximately \$1.65 per day. There is no charge for either instructors or basic trainees in the school. Here's how it works.

The Instructor Training Phase begins this year at 8:30 A.M., Sunday, August 7 and continues through Friday, August 12. It is open to those 18 years of age and older. During the first two days the instructor trainees receive special instructor training—the fundamentals of instruction, how to teach rifle marksmanship, club organization, target analysis, fundamentals of coaching, NRA program information and participate in shooting and coaching exercises. During the remaining four days, the trainees work directly with the junior shooters.

The Shooter Phase of the school will begin at 8:00 A.M., Tuesday, August 9 and continues through Friday, August 12. It is open to any junior from 12

through 18 years of age. Advanced registration is required.

Complete information on the 1966 NRA Instructor-Junior School, including registration and housing request cards is available on request. Write to the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. National Match Programs will be mailed about the 1st of June.

#### Bird Treaty Stamp

A NEW 5-cent postage stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty that provides uniform protection for migratory birds in the United States and Canada was issued on March 16 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at a ceremony held in conjunction with the 31st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. The conference was held at the Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel, March 14-16, under the sponsorship of the Wildlife Management Institute.

A starkly modern artwork, the horizontal stamp features two birds in white outline, one flying

north, the other south, at the Canadian border. Canada is red; the U.S. blue; the Great Lakes a lighter blue. At the top in a white panel appears in black capitals "Migratory Bird Treaty/1916 United States-Canada 1966." The words "U.S. Postage Five Cents" appear in black in a white panel at the bottom.

The North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference was attended by natural resources administrators, sportsmen, outdoor writers, biologists and other interested persons from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

#### Ducks Unlimited

THE TRUSTEES OF Ducks Unlimited, Inc., the continent's pioneering waterfowl conservation organization, have approved a record-breaking 1966 project construction budget of \$700,000.00. At the group's annual convention, held in San Diego, California last month, the DU Trustees unanimously approved the allocation of the \$700-thousand to the organization's Canadian affiliate, Ducks Unlimited (Canada), for expenditure in the construction and rehabilitation of prime duck breeding areas of the Dominion. The \$700,000 surpasses the previous record allocation of \$650,000 in 1965 by \$50,000.

Since its founding in 1937, the sportsman's organization has spent almost 11-million dollars in building the waterfowl conservation projects, with a total of 800 completed, totaling over 1,022,000 acres of high-production habitat. By the end of the year, over \$11,200,000 will have been expended to conserve North America's waterfowl resources.

Also at the annual convention, the DU Board of Trustees set its sights on the highest income goal ever—over \$1,000,000. Contributions to Ducks Unlimited come almost entirely from conservation-minded sportsmen and organizations, in both the U.S. and Canada. ●



## AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

*(Continued from page 5)*

subject; fish are bread and butter for resorts. Strangely enough, their recommendations in many instances are cautious and conservative. They struggle, rather ineptly, with the ecological factors of wildlife management while attempting to gain an economic advantage.

Other matters are given some attention. A power dam is rumored for a certain river. Some oppose the idea until some sage comments, "You can't stop progress, and for all we know, the reservoir might produce good fishing," so the matter is dropped.

Another member has read where one of their local streams was to be set aside as a wild river. At this point a real estate dealer takes the floor and opposes the idea because it will effect the tax base; but more important, he has river lots for sale and the government probably wouldn't give him his asking price. A resort man gets up and states that canoeists don't leave any money in the country. The matter drifts off into a vague mist of indecision so as not to offend anyone.

The subject of lake and stream pollution may be brought up with circumspection. Resort and cottage owners are not famous for tackling this job. Industry is a safe target providing there are no mills in the area; if there are mills, members who are employees have no stomach for biting the hand that feeds them. Someone will finally solve this embarrassing problem by profoundly stating that, "The government ought to do something about it."

Of course the picture varies by shades and degrees from community to community and state to state. In the West, public land grazing, fencing and logging operations hold the attention of some clubs. But still the much loved subject close to the hearts of all gun clubs is game and fish seasons.

After forty years of attending this type of meeting I have yet to see any interest in tax formulas for private forest lands or public recreational areas. There is also a growing demand for public development of recreational land, but the term soon becomes faceless and meaningless with discussion.

All of these attitudes of local self-interest are as natural as death and taxes. They are common to us all. What I wish to emphasize is the seemingly impossible task of bringing the interests of federal and state planners and those which occupy so much local concern to a point of balance; a blending of purposes where both are looking down the same gun barrel through the same sights.

This undertaking of coordination begins with understanding people. There are planners with a farm and rural background who have great proficiency in this art of public relations.

Rural people are far from ignorant, the mill-run are highly intelligent, but their interests community-wise are far more important to them than what is happening on the other side of the mountain. Furthermore, they have to live with their neighbors, and do not wish to be cataloged as chronic crusaders.

Planners must learn about people, their ways of life and environment. A diploma in land-husbandry or sociology is not enough; and if they tend to look down their noses at rural attitudes they will find themselves bested by some country shrewdness. ●

---

A particularly interesting African snake is the egg eater. This snake is able to swallow and crack hens' eggs, and sometimes pigeons' eggs, the skin being stretched to breaking point. When the egg is cracked, the swelling collapses with the swallowing of the yolk and the shell is ejected.

## YOUTH CAMP SUMMER

### SESSIONS SCHEDULED

THE PARENTS of youngsters 10 through 14 years of age may begin to make plans for the fifteenth annual camping session at the Youth Conservation Camp in the Ocala National Forest.

Applications are now being accepted for the following camping sessions for boys: June 12-18; June 19-July 2; July 3-9; July 10-16; July 17-30.

The camping sessions for girls begin July 31-August 6, and August 7-13. Girls may attend either one or two weeks.

Applications and information regarding the Youth Conservation Camp may be obtained from offices of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in Panama City, Lake City, Ocala, Lakeland, West Palm Beach and Tallahassee. Applications and camping fees are filed with the office of the Youth Conservation Camp, 2520 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, Florida.

The weekly schedule for the 1966 Youth Conservation Camp will include an improved program on fish and fishing, archery, firearm safety and hunting, a study program on conservation and wildlife, as well as camping, boating and other outdoor sports and recreation. This year's camp will include an advanced program for boys who have previously attended the Youth Conservation Camp.

Camping fees are \$30.00 for the one week sessions and \$60.00 for the two week sessions. ●

---

Polar bears have been known to stalk and kill humans in winter—either because of extreme hunger or total ignorance of man.

\* \* \*

Antelope fawns develop much faster than young deer and, when only a day or two old, are able to run about 25 miles an hour for short distances.



FOR THAT  
BIG ONE -



## FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

### APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tackle \_\_\_\_\_

Bait or Lure Used \_\_\_\_\_

Where Caught \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County

Date Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Catch Witnessed By \_\_\_\_\_

Registered, Weighed By \_\_\_\_\_ At \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Applicant)

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

#### LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

#### CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

#### BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

#### SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

#### BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

#### RED BREAST

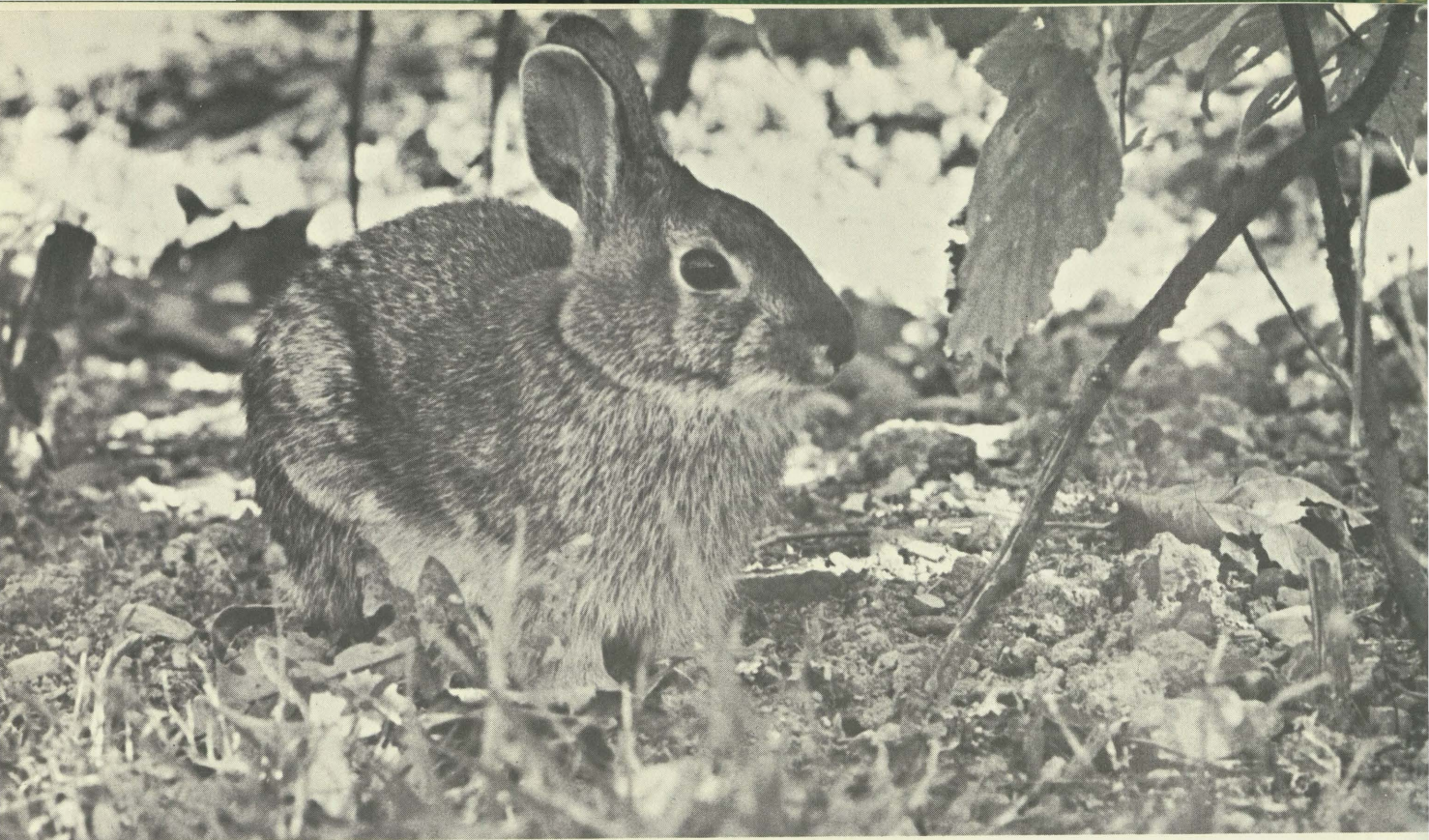
.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK





A Wildlife Portrait — The Cottontail Rabbit — By Leonard Lee Rue III

# *SUBSCRIBE NOW TO*

## *Florida Wildlife*

The Florida Magazine for ALL Sportsmen

12 Big Issues of  
**Hunting and Fishing**  
**for only \$2.50**

**TWO YEARS, 24 ISSUES, \$4.75**

**THREE YEARS, 36 ISSUES, \$6.25**

When sending change of address or inquiring about subscription, please include address impression from most recent copy you have received. To insure delivery of all copies, changes of address should be mailed as soon as possible.



**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**  
**Tallahassee, Florida**

Enter or extend my subscription for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s)  
for FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

☐ Check; ☐ Cash; ☐ Money Order herewith.

Mailing Address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_